

Mercer County Quick Facts: Children, Families, & Child Care

December 2022



Children in Mercer County

| | |
|--------|---|
| 10,707 | Children Under Age 3 |
| 20,846 | Children Under Age 5 |
| 18,226 | Children Age 5 - 8 Years |
| 15,831 | Children Age 9 - 11 Years |
| 17,085 | Children under age 6 with Working Parents |
| 21,284 | School-age children (6-12) with Working Parents |

Families in Mercer County

| | |
|--------|---|
| 41,176 | Families with Children Under Age 18 |
| 28,160 | Married Couples with Children Under 18 |
| 1,438 | Dads Raising Children Under 18 |
| 6,269 | Moms Raising Children Under 18 |
| 1,519 | Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Under 18 |

Low Income Working Families in Mercer County

| | |
|---------|---|
| 11.4% | % of Children under Age 5 Living in Poverty |
| 8.4% | % of Children Age 5-17 Living in Poverty |
| 15.2% | % of Families with Children Under 5 in Poverty |
| 9.1% | % of Families with Children Under 18 in Poverty |
| 37.2% | % of Families with Children Under 5 Living with a Single Mom in Poverty |
| 24,955 | Children Living Below 200% of Poverty |
| 30.9% | % of Children Living Below 200% of Poverty |
| 293,803 | Children under 18/Food Insecurity in NJ |
| 11.9% | % of Children under 18/Food Insecurity Mercer County |

Education Related Stats for Mercer County & NJ

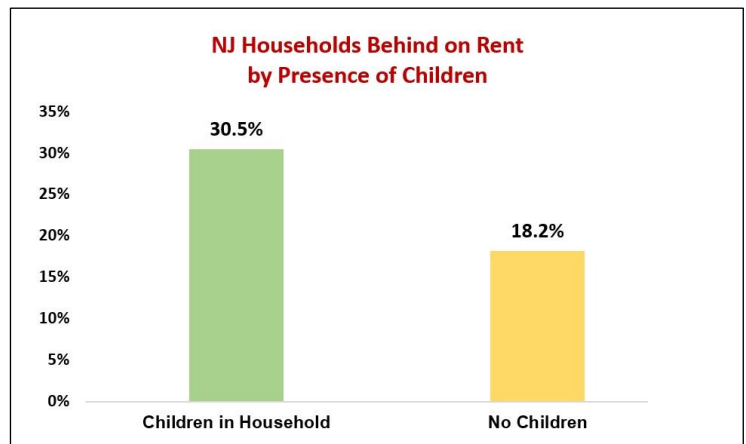
| | | |
|-------------|--|---|
| 1,776 | Children enrolled in full-day Preschool | |
| 12,429 | Children in Head Start (includes 3,423 in Early Head Start) NJ Statewide | |
| 2019 | 2022 | NAEP 4th Grade Reading Results |
| 16% | 24% | % of White 4 th Graders Reading Below Grade Level/NJ Statewide |
| 42% | 46% | % of Hispanic 4 th Graders Reading Below Grade/NJ Statewide |
| 46% | 50% | % of Black 4 th Graders Reading Below Grade/NJ Statewide |
| 45% | 53% | % of Low-Income 4 th Graders Reading Below Grade/NJ Statewide |
| 74,744 | Children 6-17 Who Repeated a Grade (2018-2019)/NJ Statewide | |
| 6% | % of Children 6-17 Who Repeated a Grade/NJ Statewide | |

COVID-19 Impact on Families with Children

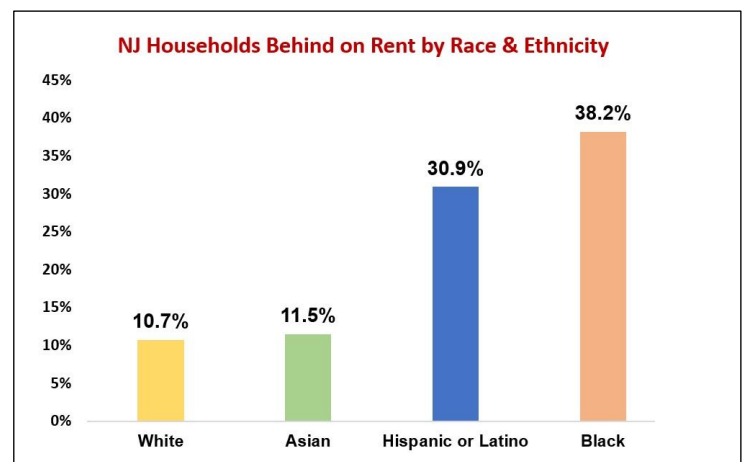
999,224

New Jersey families with children who have struggled to pay household expenses in the past week

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey, November 2-14, 2022



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey, November 2-14, 2022



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey, November 2-14, 2022

| Mercer County High School Graduation | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 91% | High School on Time Graduate Rate (2019) |
| 80% | High School Graduate Rate, Economically Disadvantaged (2019) |

Child Care Subsidies in Mercer County (NJ State Contract Year 2021)

| | |
|-------|---|
| 1,364 | Average Monthly Number of Children with Subsidy |
| 878 | Average Monthly Number of Families with Subsidy |
| 1,349 | Children in Licensed Care with Subsidy |
| 98.9% | % of Children with Subsidy in Licensed Care |
| 15 | Children in Unlicensed Care with Subsidy |
| 1% | % of Children with Subsidy in Unlicensed Care |
| Some | Provider Payment Rates at 75 th Percentile of Market Rate as Recommended by U.S. HHS |

2021 Market Rates at 75th Percentile in Mercer County (Annual Fees for Families)

| | |
|----------|--|
| \$17,400 | Center-based Infant Care Annual Fees |
| \$16,140 | Center-based Preschool-age Annual Fees |
| \$9,600 | Family Child Care Home Infant Annual Fees |
| \$9,000 | Family Child Care Home Preschool Annual Fees |
| \$14,963 | NJ Annual Cost of 4-Year Public College Tuition & Related Fees for In-State Residents (2022) |

Source: [2021 Child Care Market Rate Survey](#), Rutgers University, for NJ Dept. of Human Services, Division of Family Development (July 5, 2022).

The Division of Family Development (DFD) is temporarily paying a \$300 per child per month differential for providers caring for children whose care is paid for with a subsidy to support access to child care for low income families and to help stabilize the child care market. With COVID-19 rates up and down, this is critical support for both families and child care businesses.

| Child Age Group | Center Providers | | | | | Family Child Care Providers | | | | |
|-----------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| | 75th Percentile Market Rate (Monthly Fees) | State Assistance Monthly Rate with differential payment (\$300 per child) | State Assistance Percentile of Market | 75th Percentile Market Rate Annualized | State Assistance Annualized | 75th Percentile Market Rate (Monthly Fees) | State Assistance Monthly Rate with differential payment (\$300 per child) | State Assistance Percentile of Market | 75th Percentile Market Rate Annualized | State Assistance Annualized |
| Infant | \$1,455 | \$1,524 | 81st | \$17,460 | \$18,288 | \$900 | \$1,170 | 93rd | \$10,800 | \$14,040 |
| Toddler | \$1,400 | \$1,351 | 69th | \$16,800 | \$16,212 | \$800 | \$1,170 | 93rd | \$9,600 | \$14,040 |
| Preschooler | \$1,260 | \$1,207 | 69th | \$15,120 | \$14,484 | \$800 | \$1,027 | 91st | \$9,600 | \$12,324 |
| School-age | \$575 | \$1,150 | 94th | \$6,900 | \$13,800 | \$764 | \$1,027 | 93rd | \$9,168 | \$12,324 |

Source: [2021 Child Care Market Rate Survey](#), Prepared by the School of Social Work, Rutgers University, for New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development (July 5, 2022).

Sources:

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 U.S. Census Bureau, [Table B23008, Age of Own Children Under 18 in Families by Living Arrangement & Employment Status](#), 2021 American Community Survey 1 Year Estimates.
 U.S. Census Bureau, [School-age Children with Working Parents](#), 2021 American Community Survey 1 Year Estimates, Public Use Microdata
 U.S. Census Bureau, [Table DP03 Selected Economic Characteristics](#), 2021 American Community Survey 1 Year Estimates
 U.S. Census Bureau, [Table DP02 Selected Social Characteristics](#), 2021 American Community Survey 1 Year Estimates
 U.S. Census Bureau, [Table B17024 Age by Ratio of Income to Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months](#), 2021 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates
 National Center for Education Statistics, [2019 Reading Grades 4 and 8 Assessment Report Cards: Summary Data Tables for National and State Average Scores and NAEP Achievement Level Results](#). 2022 NAEP 4th Grade Reading Results, NJ. <https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/reading/states/achievement/?grade=4>
 NJ Department of Education, Full-day preschool enrollment, [NJ School Performance Report 2020-2021](#); High School Graduation Rates (2018-2019), [NJ School Performance Report 2018-2019](#).
 Annie E. Casey, Kids Count Data Center, New Jersey Profile: [Children Age 6-17 Who Repeated One or More Years of School](#).
 U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey, [Table 2. Food Sufficiency for Households with Children, in the Last 7 Days, by Select Characteristics](#). July 27 - August 8, 2022. [Food Insecurity in New Jersey by County](#), Feeding America 2022.
 Child Care Connection, NJ State Contract Year subsidy data for Mercer County [2021 Child Care Market Rate Survey](#), Prepared by the School of Social Work, Rutgers University, for New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development, July 5, 2022.
 U.S. College Board, Annual Survey of Colleges, [Public 4-Year Universities, Average 2021-22 Tuition and Fees at Public Four-Year Institutions by State](#)
 U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey, [November 2-14, 2022](#).

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