

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

March 2025



Children in Mercer County

12,315	Children Under Age 3
21,033	Children Under Age 5
15,587	Children Age 5 - 8 Years
14,780	Children Age 9 - 11 Years
18,590	Children under age 6 with Working Parents
23,092	School-age children (6-12) with Working Parents

Families in Mercer County

43,264	Families with Children Under Age 18
27,078	Married Couples with Children Under 18
1,254	Dads Raising Children Under 18
8,401	Moms Raising Children Under 18
1,309	Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Under 18
34.1%	% of Families working hybrid or remote/NJ

Low Income Working Families in Mercer County

14.3%	% of Children under Age 5 Living in Poverty
12.5%	% of Children Age 5-17 Living in Poverty
10.2%	% of Families with Children Under 5 in Poverty
11.8%	% of Families with Children Under 18 in Poverty
22%	% of Families with Children Under 5 Living with a Single Mom in Poverty
27,211	Children Living Below 200% of Poverty
33.1%	% of Children Living Below 200% of Poverty
10,930	Children under 18/Food Insecurity
13.3%	% of Children under 18/Food Insecurity

Education Related Stats for New Jersey

2,216		Full-day Preschool/County (2023)
14,817		Enrolled in Head Start (includes 3,614 in Early Head Start) State-wide
2019	2024	NJ NAEP 4 th Grade Reading Results
16%	20%	% of White 4 th Graders Reading Below Grade Level
42%	51%	% of Hispanic 4 th Graders Reading Below Grade Level
46%	47%	% of Black 4 th Graders Reading Below Grade Level
45%	51%	% of Low-Income 4 th Graders Reading Below Grade Level
103,054		NJ Children Age 6-17 Who Repeated a Grade (2020-2021)
8%		% of Age 6-17 Who Repeated a Grade/NJ

Family Economic Status

1,089,335

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey, [August 20 – September 16, 2024](#)

247,784

New Jersey families with children behind on last month's rent payment.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey, [August 20 – September 16, 2024](#)

371,644

New Jersey families with children who sometimes or often do not have enough to eat

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey, [August 20 – September 16, 2024](#)

County Early Intervention/Special Education

643	Part C, Infants & Toddlers with an IFSP
554	Section 619, Ages 3-5 with an IEP

County High School Graduation

89.3%	High School on Time Graduate Rate (2023)
85.2%	High School Graduate Rate, Economically Disadvantaged (2023)

Child Care Subsidies in Mercer County (2024)

4,056	Number of Children Receiving Child Care Subsidy (Unduplicated)
2,607	Number of Families whose Children Received Subsidy (Unduplicated)

Mercer County Child Care Prices (2024)

\$23,400	Center-based Infant Care Annual Fees
\$18,180	Center-based Preschool-age Annual Fees
\$14,400	Family Child Care Home Infant Annual Fees
\$12,084	Family Child Care Home Preschool Annual Fees
\$17,050	NJ Annual Cost of 4-Year Public College Tuition & Related Fees for In-State Residents (2024)
*2023 NJ Child Care Market Rate Survey, 75% Percentile (i.e., parents have choices among 75% of providers in the community)	

Child Care Subsidy Rates

Child care assistance [rates](#) are tiered based on levels within Grow New Jersey Kids (GNJK). The lowest subsidy rate is paid to providers not participating in GNJK. The subsidy rate increases as GNJK levels rise (e.g., higher rates are paid for 3-star, 4-star, and 5-star care).

Mercer	Center Providers				Family Child Care Providers			
Child Age Group	75th Percentile Market Rate (Monthly Fees)	State Assistance Monthly Rate (4-Star GNJK)	75th Percentile Market Rate Annualized	State Assistance Rate Annualized	75th Percentile Market Rate (Monthly Fees)	State Assistance Monthly Rate (4-Star GNJK)	75th Percentile Market Rate Annualized	State Assistance Rate Annualized
Infant	\$1,950	\$1,741.84	\$23,400	\$20,902.08	\$1,200	\$1,452.54	\$14,400	\$17,430.48
Toddler	\$1,700	\$1,496.81	\$20,400	\$17,961.72	\$1,200	\$1,374.11	\$14,400	\$16,489.32
Preschooler	\$1,515	\$1,354.02	\$18,180	\$16,248.24	\$1,007	\$1,321.83	\$12,084	\$15,861.96
School-age	\$1,200	\$1,190.56	\$14,400	\$14,286.72	\$1,200	\$1,211.53	\$14,400	\$14,538.36

Source: [2023 NJ Child Care Market Rate Survey](#), Prepared by the School of Social Work, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, for New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development (2024).

Sources:

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Annie E. Casey, Kids Count Data Center, New Jersey Profile [Children Age 6-17 Who Repeated One or More Years of School](#) (2020-2021).
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NJ Part C, Infants and Toddlers, [Early Intervention Report](#) (2023); NJ Department of Education, [Section 619, Ages 3-5](#) (2023)
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U.S. College Board, Annual Survey of Colleges, Public 4-Year Universities, [Average 2024 Tuition and Fees at Public Four-Year Institutions by State](#)

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