

# Essex County Quick Facts: Children, Families, & Child Care

March 2025



## Children in Essex County

29,550	Children Under Age 3
51,771	Children Under Age 5
48,000	Children Age 5 - 8 Years
30,943	Children Age 9 - 11 Years
46,843	Children under age 6 with Working Parents
59,777	School-age children (6-12) with Working Parents

## Families in Essex County

108,979	Families with Children Under Age 18
55,997	Married Couples with Children Under 18
4,436	Dads Raising Children Under 18
26,079	Moms Raising Children Under 18
5,399	Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Under 18
34.1%	% of Families working hybrid or remote/NJ

## Low Income Working Families in Essex County

16.4%	% of Children under Age 5 Living in Poverty
19.2%	% of Children Age 5-17 Living in Poverty
12.2%	% of Families with Children Under 5 in Poverty
15.3%	% of Families with Children Under 18 in Poverty
34.8%	% of Families with Children Under 5 Living with a Single Mom in Poverty
72,483	Children Living Below 200% of Poverty
36.6%	% of Children Living Below 200% of Poverty
43,110	Children under 18/Food Insecurity
21.4%	% of Children under 18/Food Insecurity

## Education Related Stats for New Jersey

11,378	Full-day Preschool/County (2023)	
14,817	Enrolled in Head Start (includes 3,614 in Early Head Start) State-wide	
<b>2019</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>NJ NAEP 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Results</b>
16%	20%	% of White 4 <sup>th</sup> Graders Reading Below Grade Level
42%	51%	% of Hispanic 4 <sup>th</sup> Graders Reading Below Grade Level
46%	47%	% of Black 4 <sup>th</sup> Graders Reading Below Grade Level
45%	51%	% of Low-Income 4 <sup>th</sup> 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

1,596	Part C, Infants & Toddlers with an IFSP
1,724	Section 619, Ages 3-5 with an IEP

### County High School Graduation

91.7%	High School on Time Graduate Rate (2023)
88%	High School Graduate Rate, Economically Disadvantaged (2023)

## Child Care Subsidies in Essex County (2024)

14,865	Number of Children Receiving Child Care Subsidy (Unduplicated)
9,694	Number of Families whose Children Received Subsidy (Unduplicated)

## Essex County Child Care Prices (2024)

\$21,000	Center-based Infant Care Annual Fees
\$18,204	Center-based Preschool-age Annual Fees
\$15,600	Family Child Care Home Infant Annual Fees
\$13,200	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).

Essex Child Age Group	Center Providers				Family Child Care Providers			
	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	\$1,750	\$1,741.84	\$21,000	\$20,902.08	\$1,300	\$1,452.54	\$15,600	\$17,430.48
Toddler	\$1,646	\$1,496.81	\$19,752	\$17,961.72	\$1,200	\$1,374.11	\$14,400	\$16,489.32
Preschooler	\$1,517	\$1,354.02	\$18,204	\$16,248.24	\$1,100	\$1,321.83	\$13,200	\$15,861.96
School-age	\$1,167	\$1,190.56	\$14,004	\$14,286.72	\$1,080	\$1,211.53	\$12,960	\$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:

U.S. Census Bureau, [Table B09001 Population Under 18 Years of Age](#), 2023 American Community Survey, 1 Year Estimates  
 U.S. Census Bureau, [Table B23008, Age of Own Children Under 18 in Families by Living Arrangement & Employment Status](#), 2023 American Community Survey 1 Year Estimates.  
 U.S. Census Bureau, [School-age Children with Working Parents](#), 2023 American Community Survey 1 Year Estimates, Public Use Microdata  
 U.S. Census Bureau, [Table DP03 Selected Economic Characteristics](#), 2023 American Community Survey 1 Year Estimates  
 U.S. Census Bureau, [Table DP02 Selected Social Characteristics](#), 2023 American Community Survey 1 Year Estimates  
 National Center for Education Statistics, 2024 Reading Grades 4 and 8 Assessment Report Cards: Summary Data Tables for National and State Average Scores and NAEP Achievement Level Results. [2024 NAEP 4th Grade Reading Results, NJ](#).  
 NJ Department of Education, Full-day preschool enrollment, [NJ School Performance Report 2023-2024](#)  
 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Head Start, [2023 Program Information Report \(PIR\), NJ](#).  
 Annie E. Casey, Kids Count Data Center, New Jersey Profile [Children Age 6-17 Who Repeated One or More Years of School](#) (2020-2021).  
 U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey, [August 20 – September 16, 2024](#)  
 NJ Part C, Infants and Toddlers, [Early Intervention Report](#) (2023); NJ Department of Education, [Section 619, Ages 3-5](#) (2023)  
 NJ Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) agency subsidy data, 2024.  
[2023 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.  
 U.S. College Board, Annual Survey of Colleges, Public 4-Year Universities, [Average 2024 Tuition and Fees at Public Four-Year Institutions by State](#)

Programs for Parents  
<https://programsforparents.org/>

Email: [customerservice@programsforparents.org](mailto:customerservice@programsforparents.org)  
 Phone: (973) 297-1114