

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

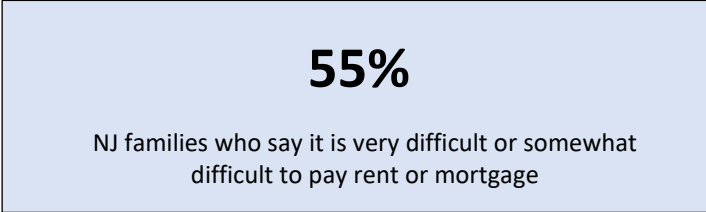
March 2026



## Children in Mercer County

12,617	Children Under Age 3
21,809	Children Under Age 5
18,589	Children Age 5 - 8 Years
13,440	Children Age 9 - 11 Years
20,735	Children under age 6 with Working Parents
25,746	School-age children (6-12) with Working Parents

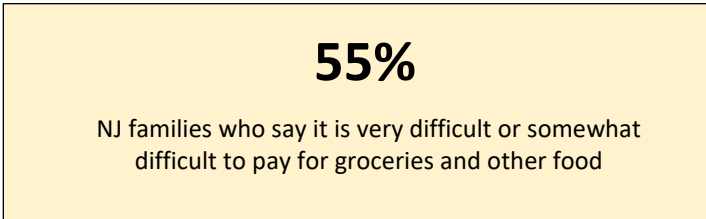
## Family Economic Status



Source: Rutgers University – New Brunswick [Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling](#), July 2025

## Families in Mercer County

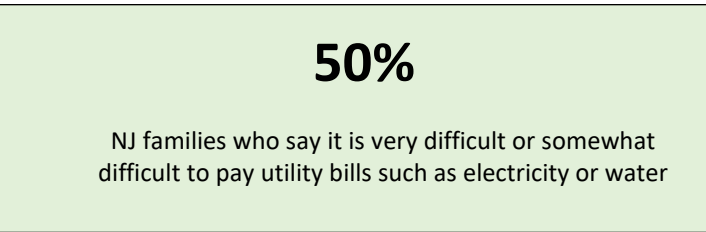
43,219	Families with Children Under Age 18
24,989	Married Couples with Children Under 18
1,718	Dads Raising Children Under 18
9,074	Moms Raising Children Under 18
1,301	Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Under 18
34.1%	% of Families working hybrid or remote/NJ 2024



Source: Rutgers University – New Brunswick [Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling](#), July 2025

## Low Income Working Families in Mercer County

15.2%	% of Children under Age 5 Living in Poverty
13.2%	% of Children Age 5-17 Living in Poverty
15.7%	% of Families with Children Under 5 in Poverty
10.6%	% of Families with Children Under 18 in Poverty
23.8%	% of Families with Children Under 5 Living with a Single Mom in Poverty
28,115	Children Living Below 200% of Poverty
33%	% of Children Living Below 200% of Poverty
11,080	Children under 18/Food Insecurity
13.2%	% of Children under 18/Food Insecurity



Source: Rutgers University – New Brunswick [Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling](#), July 2025

## Education Related Stats for New Jersey

468	Full-day Preschool/County (2024-2025)	
12,003	Enrolled in Head Start (includes 3,592 in Early Head Start) State-wide 2025	
<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
83,846	NJ Children Age 6-17 Who Repeated a Grade (2022-2023)	
6%	% of Age 6-17 Who Repeated a Grade/NJ	

County Early Intervention/Special Education	
608	Part C, Infants & Toddlers with an IFSP
495	Section 619, Ages 3-5 with an IEP

County High School Graduation	
90.8%	High School on Time Graduate Rate (2024)
88.5%	High School Graduate Rate, Economically Disadvantaged (2024)

## Child Care Subsidies in Mercer County (2025)

3,714	Number of Children Receiving Child Care Subsidy (Unduplicated)
2,456	Number of Families whose Children Received Subsidy (Unduplicated)

## Mercer County Child Care Prices (2025)

\$16,172	Center-based Infant Care Annual Fees
\$12,301	Center-based Preschool-age Annual Fees
\$15,080	Family Child Care Home Infant Annual Fees
\$13,312	Family Child Care Home Preschool Annual Fees
\$17,960	NJ Annual Cost of 4-Year Public College Tuition & Related Fees for In-State Residents (2025)
Source: CCR&R child care price data (2025) and U.S. College Board, Annual Survey of Colleges, Public 4-Year Universities for 2025.	

## 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).

As of 3/1/25	Center Providers				Family Child Care Providers			
	Licensed Child Care Centers Monthly Rate	State Assistance Monthly Rate (4-Star GNJK)	Licensed Child Care Centers Annualized	State Assistance Rate Annualized (4-Star GNJK)	Registered Family Child Care Homes Monthly Rate	State Assistance Monthly Rate (4-Star GNJK)	Registered Family Child Care Homes Annualized	State Assistance Rate Annualized (4-Star GNJK)
Infant	\$1,587.69	\$1,741.84	\$19,052	\$20,902.08	\$1,217.56	\$1,452.54	\$14,611	\$17,430.48
Toddler	\$1,414.00	\$1,496.81	\$16,968	\$17,961.72	\$1,217.56	\$1,374.11	\$14,611	\$16,489.32
Preschooler	\$1,262.50	\$1,354.02	\$15,150	\$16,248.24	\$1,067.23	\$1,321.83	\$12,807	\$15,861.96
School-age	\$1,190.56	\$1,190.56	\$14,287	\$14,286.72	\$1,061.95	\$1,061.95	\$12,743	\$12,743.40

Source: New Jersey Department of Human Services, Maximum Child Care Payment Rates, March 1, 2025

### Sources:

U.S. Census Bureau, [Table B09001 Population Under 18 Years of Age](#), 2024 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](#), 2024 American Community Survey 1 Year Estimates.

U.S. Census Bureau, [School-age Children with Working Parents](#), 2024 American Community Survey 1 Year Estimates, Public Use Microdata

U.S. Census Bureau, [Table DP03 Selected Economic Characteristics](#), 2024 American Community Survey 1 Year Estimates; [5-Year Estimates](#)

U.S. Census Bureau, [Table DP02 Selected Social Characteristics](#), 2024 American Community Survey 1 Year Estimates

Feeding America, [Food Insecurity Briefs by County and State](#), 2025

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 2024-2025

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Head Start, [2025 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](#) (2022-2023).

Rutgers University [Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling](#), July 2025

NJ Part C, Infants and Toddlers, [Early Intervention Report](#) (2025); NJ Department of Education, [Section 619, Ages 3-5](#) (2025)

NJ Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) agency subsidy data, 2025.

U.S. College Board, Annual Survey of Colleges, Public 4-Year Universities, [Average 2025 Tuition and Fees at Public Four-Year Institutions by State](#)

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