

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

March 2026



Children in Ocean County

30,144	Children Under Age 3
49,223	Children Under Age 5
36,786	Children Age 5 - 8 Years
28,045	Children Age 9 - 11 Years
33,821	Children under age 6 with Working Parents
37,671	School-age children (6-12) with Working Parents

Families in Ocean County

70,056	Families with Children Under Age 18
52,800	Married Couples with Children Under 18
1,341	Dads Raising Children Under 18
5,884	Moms Raising Children Under 18
2,543	Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Under 18
34.1%	% of Families working hybrid or remote/NJ 2024

Low Income Working Families in Ocean County

11.6%	% of Children under Age 5 Living in Poverty
11%	% of Children Age 5-17 Living in Poverty
11.6%	% of Families with Children Under 5 in Poverty
9.5%	% of Families with Children Under 18 in Poverty
37%	% of Families with Children Under 5 Living with a Single Mom in Poverty
48,769	Children Living Below 200% of Poverty
29.7%	% of Children Living Below 200% of Poverty
22,610	Children under 18/Food Insecurity
14%	% of Children under 18/Food Insecurity

Education Related Stats for New Jersey

4,012	Full-day Preschool/County (2024-2025)	
12,003	Enrolled in Head Start (includes 3,592 in Early Head Start) State-wide 2025	
2019	2024	NJ NAEP 4th 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
83,846	NJ Children Age 6-17 Who Repeated a Grade (2022-2023)	
6%	% of Age 6-17 Who Repeated a Grade/NJ	

Family Economic Status

55%

NJ families who say it is very difficult or somewhat difficult to pay rent or mortgage

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

55%

NJ families who say it is very difficult or somewhat difficult to pay for groceries and other food

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

50%

NJ families who say it is very difficult or somewhat difficult to pay utility bills such as electricity or water

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

County Early Intervention/Special Education

2,181	Part C, Infants & Toddlers with an IFSP
1,163	Section 619, Ages 3-5 with an IEP

County High School Graduation

92.3%	High School on Time Graduate Rate (2024)
87.7%	High School Graduate Rate, Economically Disadvantaged (2024)

Child Care Subsidies in Ocean County (2025)

10,430	Number of Children Receiving Child Care Subsidy (Unduplicated)
4,309	Number of Families whose Children Received Subsidy (Unduplicated)

Ocean County Child Care Prices (2025)

\$16,328	Center-based Infant Care Annual Fees
\$13,572	Center-based Preschool-age Annual Fees
\$15,482	Family Child Care Home Infant Annual Fees
\$12,602	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 Child Age Group	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 [Eggleton 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](#)

The Children's Home Society

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