

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

March 2026



Rutgers Southern Regional Child Care
Resource and Referral Agency

Children in Salem County

1,686	Children Under Age 3
3,079	Children Under Age 5
2,300	Children Age 5 - 8 Years
3,709	Children Age 9 - 11 Years
3,179	Children under age 6 with Working Parents
6,942	School-age children (6-12) with Working Parents

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

Families in Salem County

5,847	Families with Children Under Age 18
3,501	Married Couples with Children Under 18
394	Dads Raising Children Under 18
778	Moms Raising Children Under 18
603	Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Under 18
34.1%	% of Families working hybrid or remote/NJ 2024

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

Low Income Working Families in Salem County

28.6%	% of Children under Age 5 Living in Poverty
28.9%	% of Children Age 5-17 Living in Poverty
26%	% of Families with Children Under 5 in Poverty
22.5%	% of Families with Children Under 18 in Poverty
66.3%	% of Families with Children Under 5 Living with a Single Mom in Poverty
6,386	Children Living Below 200% of Poverty
44.2%	% of Children Living Below 200% of Poverty
2,720	Children under 18/Food Insecurity
19.1%	% of Children under 18/Food Insecurity

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

Education Related Stats for New Jersey

875	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

County Early Intervention/Special Education

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

County High School Graduation

93.1%	High School on Time Graduate Rate (2024)
89.4%	High School Graduate Rate, Economically Disadvantaged (2024)

Child Care Subsidies in Salem County (2025)

643	Number of Children Receiving Child Care Subsidy (Unduplicated)
375	Number of Families whose Children Received Subsidy (Unduplicated)

Salem County Child Care Prices (2025)

\$13,440	Center-based Infant Care Annual Fees
\$11,206	Center-based Preschool-age Annual Fees
\$12,811	Family Child Care Home Infant Annual Fees
\$10,214	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 [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](#)

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