

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

March 2026



## Children in Somerset County

10,337	Children Under Age 3
17,363	Children Under Age 5
14,704	Children Age 5 - 8 Years
13,454	Children Age 9 - 11 Years
15,284	Children under age 6 with Working Parents
24,774	School-age children (6-12) with Working Parents

## Families in Somerset County

40,516	Families with Children Under Age 18
30,209	Married Couples with Children Under 18
998	Dads Raising Children Under 18
3,000	Moms Raising Children Under 18
854	Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Under 18
34.1%	% of Families working hybrid or remote/NJ 2024

## Low Income Working Families in Somerset County

3.8%	% of Children under Age 5 Living in Poverty
6.2%	% of Children Age 5-17 Living in Poverty
3.1%	% of Families with Children Under 5 in Poverty
5.6%	% of Families with Children Under 18 in Poverty
11.8%	% of Families with Children Under 5 Living with a Single Mom in Poverty
10,303	Children Living Below 200% of Poverty
14.1%	% of Children Living Below 200% of Poverty
4,890	Children under 18/Food Insecurity
6.6%	% of Children under 18/Food Insecurity

## Education Related Stats for New Jersey

1,073	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	

## 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	
521	Part C, Infants & Toddlers with an IFSP
594	Section 619, Ages 3-5 with an IEP

County High School Graduation	
94.6%	High School on Time Graduate Rate (2024)
89.5%	High School Graduate Rate, Economically Disadvantaged (2024)

## Child Care Subsidies in Somerset County (2025)

1,522	Number of Children Receiving Child Care Subsidy (Unduplicated)
820	Number of Families whose Children Received Subsidy (Unduplicated)

## Somerset County Child Care Prices (2025)

\$21,840	Center-based Infant Care Annual Fees
\$20,016	Center-based Preschool-age Annual Fees
\$15,000	Family Child Care Home Infant Annual Fees*
\$13,680	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: <a href="#">2023 NJ Child Care Market Rate Survey</a> , 75% Percentile (i.e., parents have choices among 75% of providers in the community). The sample for Somerset County was not reported. Statewide data was used as a proxy.	

## 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 [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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