

New Jersey Quick Facts: Children, Families, & Child Care

March 2026



Children in New Jersey

305,481	Children Under Age 3
525,679	Children Under Age 5
434,382	Children Age 5 - 8 Years
352,889	Children Age 9 - 11 Years
458,554	Children under age 6 with Working Parents
601,144	School-age children (6-12) with Working Parents

Families in New Jersey

1,070,050	Families with Children Under Age 18
691,273	Married Couples with Children Under 18
32,163	Dads Raising Children Under 18
160,437	Moms Raising Children Under 18
40,815	Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Under 18
34.1%	% of Families working hybrid or remote (2024)

Low Income Working Families in New Jersey

11.5%	% of Children under Age 5 Living in Poverty
11.4%	% of Children Age 5-17 Living in Poverty
8%	% of Families with Children Under 5 in Poverty
9.8%	% of Families with Children Under 18 in Poverty
23.3%	% of Families with Children Under 5 Living with a Single Mom in Poverty
549,679	Children Living Below 200% of Poverty
27.2%	% of Children Living Below 200% of Poverty
271,650	Children under 18/Food Insecurity
13.5%	% of Children under 18/Food Insecurity

Education Related Stats for New Jersey

55,931	Enrolled in full-day Preschool (2024-2025)	
12,003	Enrolled in Head Start (includes 3,592 in Early Head Start), 2025	
2019	2024	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	Children 6-17 Who Repeated a Grade (2022-2023)	
6%	% of Children 6-17 Who Repeated a Grade	

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

NJ Early Intervention/Special Education

18,169	Part C, Infants & Toddlers with an IFSP
16,736	Section 619, Ages 3-5 with an IEP

NJ Statewide High School Graduation

91.3%	High School on Time Graduate Rate (2024)
87.1%	High School Graduate Rate, Economically Disadvantaged (2024)

New Jersey Child Care Prices (2025)

Child Care Subsidies in New Jersey (2025)

91,132	Number of Children Receiving Child Care Subsidy (Unduplicated)
54,950	Number of Families whose Children Received Subsidy (Unduplicated)

*The number of children and families whose care is paid for with a subsidy is an unduplicated count for calendar year 2025.

\$17,977	Center-based Infant Care Annual Fees
\$14,551	Center-based Preschool-age Annual Fees
\$14,612	Family Child Care Home Infant Annual Fees
\$12,629	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:

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 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.
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 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](#)