



COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Gateway Community Action Partnership
Gateway Early Head Start/Head Start
110 Cohansey Street
Bridgeton, NJ 08302

* Revised October 2021

GATEWAY COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

Community Needs Assessment

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	Page 3
About Gateway Community Action Partnership	Page 4
Map of Gateway Service Areas	Page 5
Gateway Facilities and Center Locations	Page 6
Overview and Assessment Methodology	Page 7
County Profiles and Data	Page 8
Cumberland	Page 8
Gloucester	Page 16
Salem	Page 25
Mercer County	Page 34
Atlantic County	Page 35
Cape May County	Page 36
Philadelphia, Pa.	Page 37
Community Input	Page 44

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This 2017 Community Assessment was compiled using an array of different assessment techniques, including community surveys, U.S. Census Bureau information, and data collected and analyzed to identify the strengths and needs of the Gateway Community Action Partnership service area. This Community Assessment includes demographic information about children eligible for Head Start services, other child development programs available in the service areas, data regarding health, nutritional and special education needs of the children; and resources in the community that could help address the needs of Head Start eligible children and families.

Gateway administrative staff began the task of compiling this community assessment in Winter 2016. Community stakeholders were included through surveys as well as the Head Start self-assessment process. Most of the data compiled for this assessment from published sources available online from various state public agencies. Population estimates for 2016 came from the United States Census Bureau website data. Primary data from the Gateway Community Action Partnership Head Start program records included: Program Information Reports, Head Start staff surveys, as well as a parent survey that was disseminated to determine the needs and challenges of Head Start children and families.

ABOUT GATEWAY COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

Gateway Community Action Partnership (formed and incorporated as Tri-County Community Action Agency Inc.) is the designated Community Action Program (CAP) for Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties in Southern New Jersey and also provides services in Atlantic, Camden, Cape May and Mercer counties, as well as Philadelphia, Pa.

As a CAP, Tri-County helps low- and moderate-income residents identify and overcome barriers to self-sufficiency.

The agency's more than 800 employees form a network of professional teachers, social workers, counselors, nutritionists and program planners, all dedicated to making our communities better places to live and work for all residents.

The staff is guided by President & CEO Albert B. Kelly, founder of Gateway, and senior vice president and Chief Operations Officer Edward Bethea. Together, the agency's senior management team has more

than 45 years of experience in the community service field.

Gateway CAP is governed by a volunteer board of directors. Its members equally represent business, elected officials and the community served. The agency's tripartite board is made up of at least one-third representation of the low-income community, one-third representation of local elected officials and the remainder from the general community.

The agency was incorporated as Test City Child Care in 1972 and expanded its base of services in 1987 when it was awarded the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) as a federally designated community action program. The agency's trade name was changed to Tri-County Community Action Partnership in October 2002 to better reflect the collaborative efforts with other service providers as well as with state, county and local governments and other entities.

The agency became Gateway CAP on April 1, 2011 to better reflect its expanded service area.

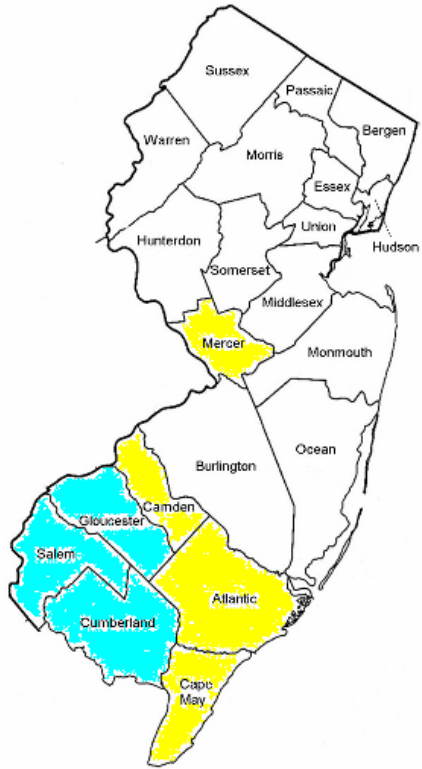
Since becoming a CAP in 1987, Gateway has worked with residents, governments, other agencies and private sector institutions to help tens of thousands of local residents help themselves. Gateway CAP provides child care for more than 1,800 children daily, builds high-quality affordable housing, collaborates to do economic development, operates the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program, provides literacy services, assists families maintain stable households, promotes fiscal stability through matched savings programs and serves as an advocate for children and families at the local, state and federal levels.

Gateway CAP is a private, non-profit, community based organization with a federal 501-C-3 designation by the IRS.

As of January 2017, Gateway CAP operates programs in core areas, including housing, child care, health services, literacy, emergency services and community development with an annual budget of approximately \$58 million to serve more than 48,000 clients annually in its coverage area.

These inter-connected programs work at dozens of sites throughout the region, addressing the causes and effects of poverty. All programs aim to guide participants toward a future of self-sufficiency.

GATEWAY COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP FACILITIES/LOCATIONS



Federally recognized Community Action Program for Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties. Services in these counties include Head Start, Child Care, Emergency Services, Housing, etc.



Limited services are available in these counties: WIC in Camden and Cape May, and Head Start in Mercer, Atlantic and Cape May counties, as well as Germantown-Lehigh in Philadelphia, Pa..

Gateway Community Action Partnership is the designated Community Action Program (CAP) for Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties in Southern New Jersey. The programs and services provided by Gateway CAP are administered in the CGS (Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem) area of New Jersey. Gateway Community Action Partnership's Head Start Program provides services for children and families in Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem, Atlantic, Camden, Cape May and Mercer counties in New Jersey, as well as Philadelphia, Pa.

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Methodology

The Gateway Community Needs Assessment was completed using four connected methodologies: analysis of the data compiled for this assessment from published sources available online from various state public agencies, a survey of community members in Cumberland Gloucester and Salem counties, a survey of partner agencies working in the Gateway service area, a survey of board members/staff/volunteers of Gateway Community Action Partnership, and a series of forums and focus groups to delve further into the topics identified in prior surveys.

Objective Data

Statistics and other data for this report were gleaned from a variety of federal, state, county and agency sources, including: the 2016 New Jersey Kids Count Data Book and Kids County State-Level Data Online, New Jersey Employment and Population in the 21st Century, the Cumberland County Comprehensive Human Services Plan, the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency Annual Report, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, and the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

Community Member Needs Survey

The Community Member Needs Survey was answered by 810 residents of Cumberland, Salem and Gloucester counties. Community members were asked their needs and their perception of their communities needs through both a paper survey and an online survey distributed throughout the various Gateway CAP programs. While Gateway's service area extends beyond the designated tri-county area of Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem counties, it is notable that many of the survey responses are from community members of these areas.

Partner Survey

The Partner Survey was distributed to staff members of various social service agencies located with the Gateway CAP service area via Survey Monkey. The survey received 36 responses. The survey was sent via Survey Monkey link to community partners of Gateway CAP. There was not means to control whether staff members from targeted social service agencies were likely to respond.

Board/Staff/Volunteer Survey

The Board/Staff/Volunteer Survey was distributed to Gateway CAP board members, staff and agency volunteers. The survey included questions about the issues in the communities the respondents live and work in as well as questions aimed at gauging the agencies success in delivering quality services to our clients and to the communities we serve. 448 respondents completed the survey. Respondents included individuals throughout the Gateway CAP service area.

Forums/Breakout Focus Groups

Community Needs Assessment- "A Call to Action" town forum was held in order to delve further into community needs identified by the surveys. The goal of this forum was to identify current community needs, increase understanding about poverty and how it can be addressed, and build and strengthen partnerships across the business, government and social sectors in order to reduce poverty.

Participants were asked to divide into four breakout focus group centered on one area of identified concern: Neighborhood Safety, Job Training/Education, Financial Security/ Self-Sufficiency, and Food Security/Well-Being. The focus groups discussed specific issues affecting Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem county residents and developed strategies to combat these issues. These recommendations were then shared with local governmental and county committees.

Community Representation

Community engagement and feedback were an integral part of the community assessment process. Gateway CAP sought community input through key informant interviews with community leaders and partners, forums and focus group research and an online community survey available to all residents in within Gateway's service area. Participants included respondents from Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem, Atlantic, Cape May, Camden and Mercer counties located in southern New Jersey.

Gateway Community Action Partnership conducted customer service surveys both in-print and online via survey monkey. This customer service data was gathered from feedback collected from individuals and families the agency serves. Data collected specific to poverty included responses from individuals across demographic categories of gender, age, and race/ethnicity.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, NJ

Cumberland County is in the southern portion of the state, bordering Delaware. It is home to numerous rural municipalities but also features three densely populated urban cities – Bridgeton, Vineland and Millville – where 70 percent of the county population resides. Among all counties in New Jersey, Cumberland has the highest proportion of children living below poverty at 25%. Cumberland County suffers from numerous social factors, including high unemployment, severe poverty, poor educational performance, and high gang-related criminal activity. Cumberland consistently ranks at or near the bottom of the Advocates for the Children of New Jersey’s annual ranking of the state’s counties for children’s welfare, coming in at 21 out of 21 for 2016.

Area	484 square miles
Composition	77% urban, 23% rural
Largest Municipalities	Vineland Millville Bridgeton
Population Density	324.4 persons per square mile
Total Population	156,898
Percent of New Jersey Population	2%
Child Population	37,667
Percent of NJ Child Population	2%
County Single-Parent Households	13.6%
County Children Living Below Poverty	25.2%
Households Speaking Language Other Than English at Home	County 25.3% Bridgeton Vineland
Head Start Eligible Population	3,030
Median Income	(B)39,890 (V) 51,710
Unemployment Rates	10%

Cumberland County, NJ



Cumberland County at a glance

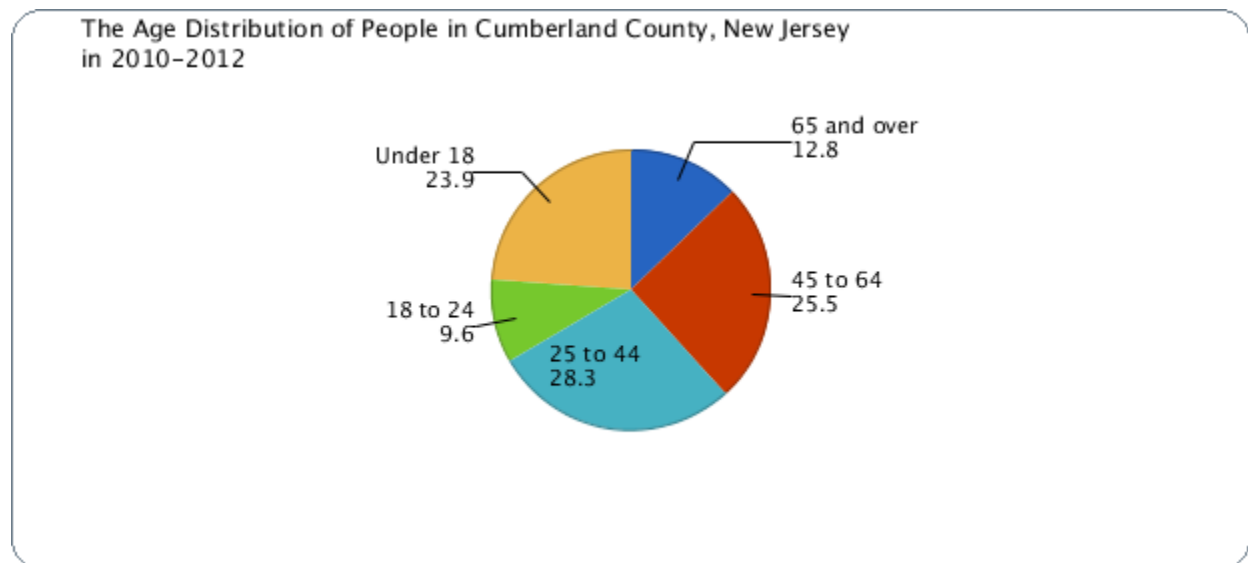
	County	New Jersey
Number of Head start eligible youth/families	3,030	
Race/ethnicity		
Caucasian	62.74%	
African-American	20.23%	
Hispanic/Latino	27.06%	
Households Speaking Languages other than English in home	25.3%	
Children 0-5 Experiencing Homelessness	17	1036
Children in Foster Care 0-5	123	47%
Children with disabilities	4,446	

Geography

Cumberland County, with a total area of 677 square miles, is located in extreme Southern New Jersey with an expansive Delaware Bay coastline. It is home to numerous rural municipalities but also features three densely populated urban cities – Bridgeton, Vineland and Millville – where 70 percent of the county population resides.

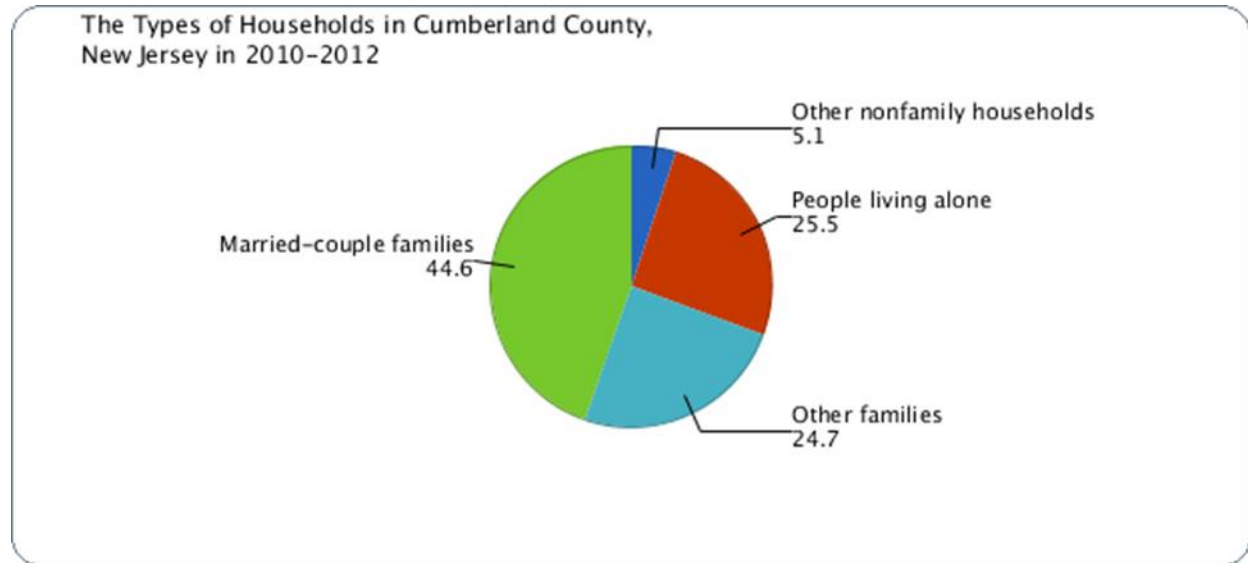
Population

In 2010-2012, Cumberland County, New Jersey had a total population of 157,000 - 76,000 (49 percent) females and 81,000 (52 percent) males. The median age was 36.7 years. Twenty-four percent of the population was under 18 years and 13 percent was 65 years and older.

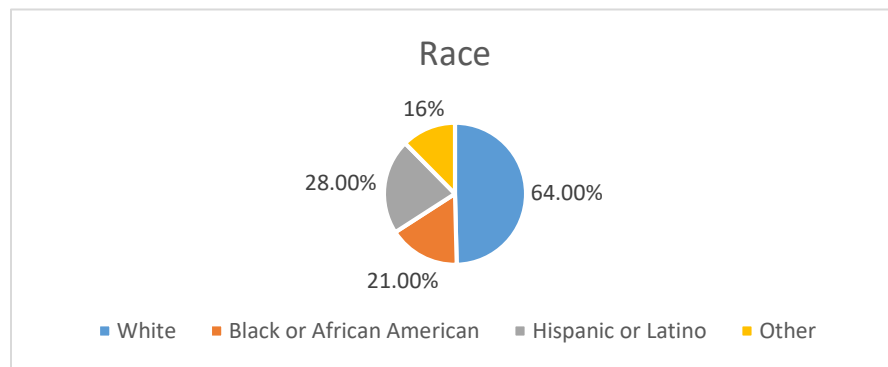


For people reporting one race alone, 64 percent were White; 21 percent were Black or African American; 1 percent were American Indian and Alaska Native; 1 percent were Asian; less than 0.5 percent were

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and 12 percent were Some other race. Four percent reported Two or more races. Twenty-eight percent of the people in Cumberland County, New Jersey were Hispanic. Fifty- percent of the people in Cumberland County, New Jersey were White non-Hispanic. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race.



Race/Ethnicity

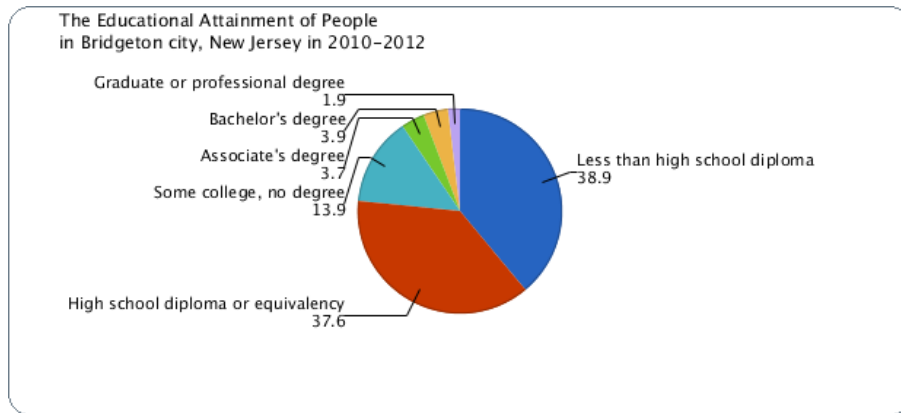


Education

In 2010-2012, 38 percent of people 25 years and over had a high school diploma or equivalency and 6 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. Thirty-nine percent were dropouts; they were not

enrolled in school and had not graduated from high school.

The total school enrollment in Bridgeton City, New Jersey was 5,700 in 2010-2012. Nursery school and kindergarten enrollment was 880 and elementary or high school enrollment was 3,900 children. College or graduate school enrollment was 910.



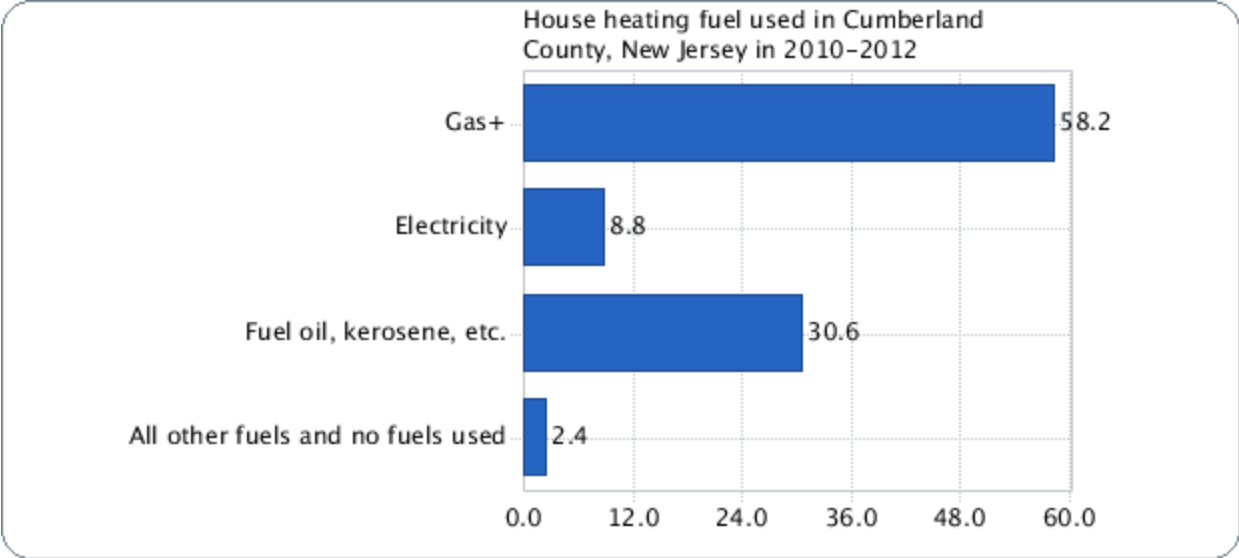
Health Insurance

Among the civilian noninstitutionalized population in Cumberland County, New Jersey in 2010-2012, 84 percent had health insurance coverage and 16 percent did not have health insurance coverage. For those under 18 years of age, 7 percent had no health insurance coverage. The civilian noninstitutionalized population had both private and public health insurance, with 58 percent having private coverage and 37 percent having public coverage.

Occupied Housing Unit Characteristics

In 2010-2012, Cumberland County, New Jersey had 50,000 occupied housing units - 34,000 (68 percent) owner occupied and 16,000 (32 percent) renter occupied. Fifty-eight percent of householders of these units had moved in since 2000. Sixty-four percent of the owner occupied units had a mortgage. Two percent of the households did not have telephone service. Ten percent had no vehicles available and another 19 percent had three or more.

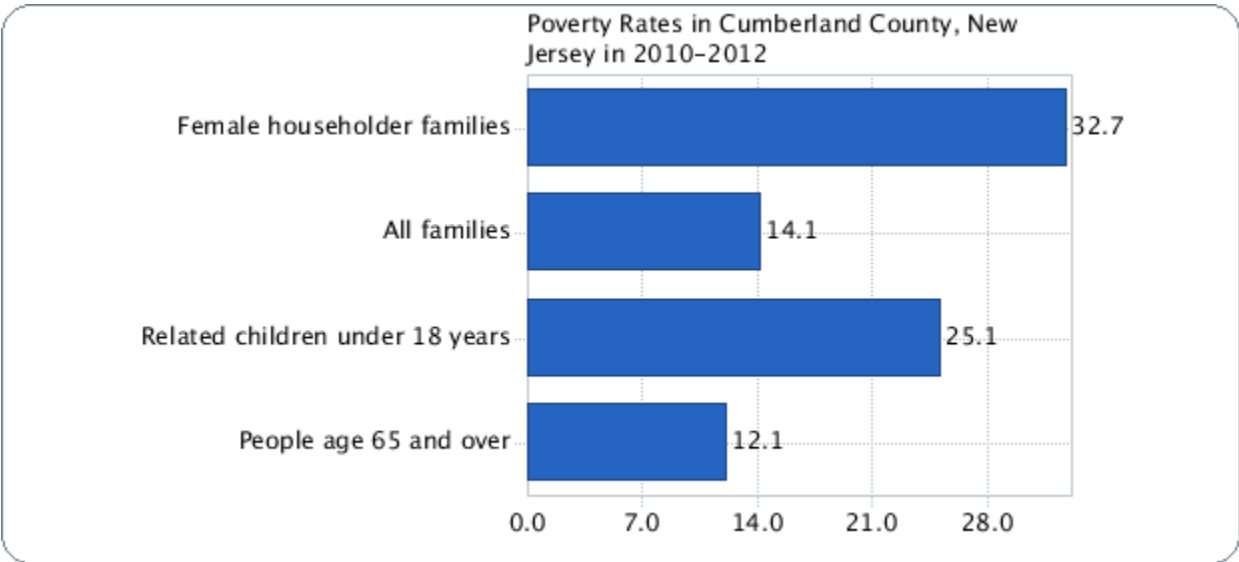
Homes in Cumberland County, New Jersey were heated in the following ways:



+this category includes utility, bottled, tank, or LP gas

Poverty and Participation in Government Programs

In 2010-2012, 18 percent of people were in poverty. Twenty-five percent of related children under 18 were below the poverty level, compared with 12 percent of people 65 years old and over. Fourteen percent of all families and 33 percent of families with a female householder and no husband present had incomes below the poverty level.

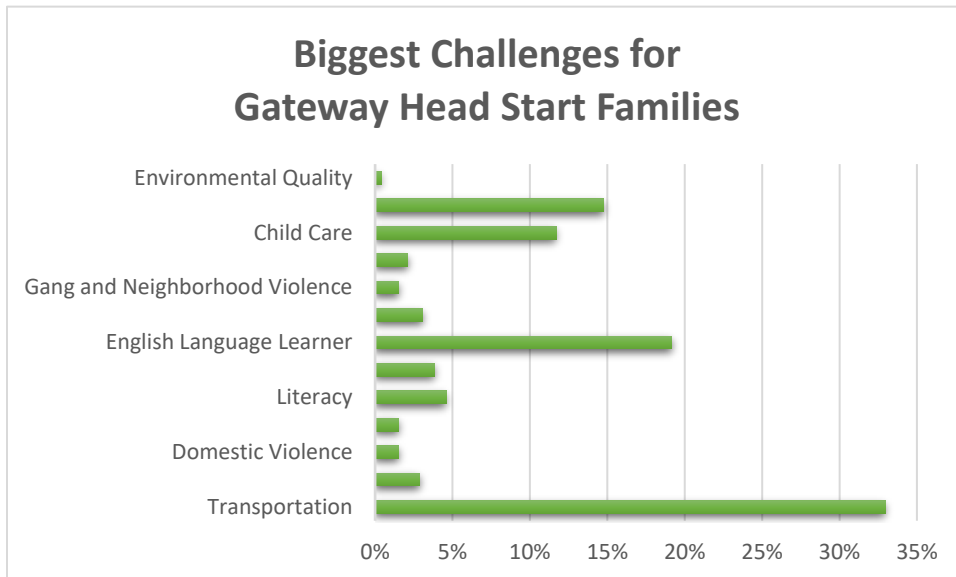


Census 2010

At the 2010 United States Census, there were 156,898 people, 51,931 households, and 36,559 families residing in the county. The population density was 324.4 per square mile. There were 55,834 housing units at an average density of 115.4 per square mile. The racial makeup of the county was 62.74% White, 20.23% Black or African American, 1.11% Native American, 1.22% Asian, 0.04% Pacific Islander, 11.15% from other races, and 3.52% (5,523) from two or more races. Hispanics or Latinos of any race were 27.06% (42,457) of the population.

There were 51,931 households, of which 31.4% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 45.2% were married couples living together, 18.6% had a female householder with no husband present, and 29.6% were non-families. 24% of all households were made up of individuals, and 10.8% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.79 and the average family size was 3.26.

In the county, 24% of the population were under the age of 18, 9.5% from 18 to 24, 28.5% from 25 to 44, 25.3% from 45 to 64, and 12.6% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 36.5 years. For every 100 females there were 106.2 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 106.9 males.



Head Start Eligible Population- Cumberland County

Approximately 3,030 preschool children living in Cumberland County, including 989 in the City of Bridgeton and 1,058 in the City of Vineland, are eligible for Early Head Start and Head Start services, according to a Gateway Community Action projection (see chart below). Of those not served by Head Start, parents are able to access child care services through Quality Care Resource and Referral, which helps with subsidies and referrals to

child care. Despite the resources in the area, there remains a need for quality, affordable early childhood programs.

Greatest Needs of Head Start Eligible Children

Children and families of Cumberland County need services that include providing a safe place for children to learn and grow. Gateway Community Action Partnership's programs such as Head Start Centers, become a resource for parents to become advocates for a safe community for children to grow. According to the 2016 Kids Count, Cumberland County ranks 21 out of 21 counties in New Jersey in child welfare. The county has consistently ranked either at or near the bottom of the statewide rankings for more than a decade. (see Kids Count Chart below)

Children and families of Cumberland County need school readiness services that assist children in developing social, academic, physical, and creative skills. Cumberland County ranks dead last among New Jersey's counties for passing 3rd, 4th, 8th, and 11th grade tests. Gateway Head Start partners with local districts and with the NJ Department of Education to ensure school readiness.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY 2020-21

ESTIMATING HEAD START ELIGIBLE CHILDREN


FREE LUNCH DATA

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3			COLUMN 4
MUNICIPALITY	FIRST AND SECOND GRADERS GOING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL	CALCULATION OF PERCENT RECEIVING FREE LUNCH 2018-19			ESTIMATE OF HEAD START ELIGIBLE
		3A TOTAL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT	3B NUMBER RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	3C PERCENT RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	
NORTHWEST					
BRIDGETON	833	6012	4810	80.0	666
DEERFIELD	48	271	142	52.4	25
FAIRFIELD	83	480	140	29.2	24
HOPEWELL	98	496	128	25.8	25
SHILOH	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
UPPERDEERFIELD	142	813	421	51.8	74
SOUTH					
COMMERCIAL	97	459	321	69.9	68
DOWNE	34	163	55	40.4	14
GREENWICH	18	79	9	51.9	9
LAWRENCE	94	484	208	42.9	40
MAURICE RIVER	58	394	154	39.2	23
STOW CREEK	23	124	35	28.2	6
NORTHEAST					
MILLVILLE	583	4944	3486	70.5	411
VINELAND	1360	9487	9	0.1	1


TOTAL	3471	24,206	9,918		1,386

Cumberland County At-a-Glance

Total Population, 2018	150,972
Child Population, 2018	36,107
Median Income of Families with Children, 2018	\$49,521



	Cumberland	NJ	
Child and Family Economics	Percent of Children Living Below the Poverty Threshold, 2018	21%	14%
	Percent of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Rent, 2018	67%	49%
	Unemployment Rate, 2018	6.5	4.1
Child Health	Percent of Babies Born with Low Birthweights, 2017	10.4%	8.0%
	Percent of Children Under Age 6 Tested for Lead, 2017	24%	26%
	Percent of Children Under Age 19 Without Health Insurance, 2018	4.5%	3.9%
Education	High School Graduation Rate, 2017-18	83%	91%
	Percent Meeting/Exceeding Expectations on 3rd Grade ELA PARCC Exam, 2017-18	27%	52%
	Percent of Students Chronically Absent, 2016-17	16%	10%
Safety and Well-Being	Percent of Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Working and Not in School, 2013-2017	26%	11%
	Percent of Reported Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect, 2017	9.6%	7.1%
	Juvenile Arrest Rate (per 1,000), 2016	15.9	10.1



Advocates for Children of New Jersey is the trusted, independent voice putting children's needs first for over 40 years. Our work results in better laws and policies, more effective funding and stronger services for children and families. And it means that more children are given the chance to grow up safe, healthy and educated.

KIDS COUNT® is a national and state-by-state data effort to track child well-being and is sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

©2019 Advocates for Children of New Jersey • ACNJ.org • 973.643.3876

GLOUCESTER COUNTY, NJ

Gloucester County is a fast-growing, primarily suburban county in Southwestern New Jersey. It borders Salem, Cumberland, Atlantic and Camden counties, as well as the Delaware River. The county's population was 288,288 in the 2010 Census, increasing by 33,615 (+13.2%) from the 2000 Census, retaining its position as the state's 14th-most populous county. The percentage increase since 2000 was the largest in New Jersey, almost triple the statewide increase of 4.5%, and the absolute increase in residents was the third highest.

Area	895.3 square miles
Composition	77% urban, 23% rural
Largest Municipality	Washington Township 49,599 population
Population Density	324.4 persons per square mile
Total Population	288,288
Percent of New Jersey Population	4.5%
Child Population	66,762
Percent of NJ Child Population	4%
County Single-Parent Households	6%
County Children Living Below Poverty	10%
Households Speaking Language Other Than English at Home	8.6%
Head Start Eligible Population	3,030
Median Income for Families with Children	\$93,000
Unemployment Rates	7.4%

Gloucester County, NJ



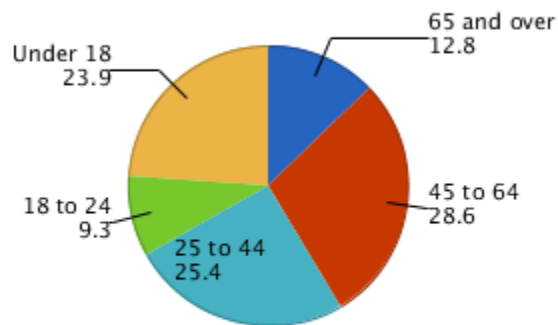
Geography

Gloucester County, with a total population of 288,288, is located in the Southwestern portion of New Jersey along the Delaware Bay coastline. It borders Salem, Cumberland, Atlantic and Camden counties and is close in proximity to Philadelphia, PA. Gloucester County is the state's 14th-most populous county.

Population

In 2010-2012, Gloucester County, New Jersey had a total population of 289,000 - 149,000 (52 percent) females and 140,000 (49 percent) males. The median age was 39.0 years. Twenty-four percent of the population was under 18 years and 13 percent was 65 years and older.

The Age Distribution of People in Gloucester County, New Jersey in 2010-2012

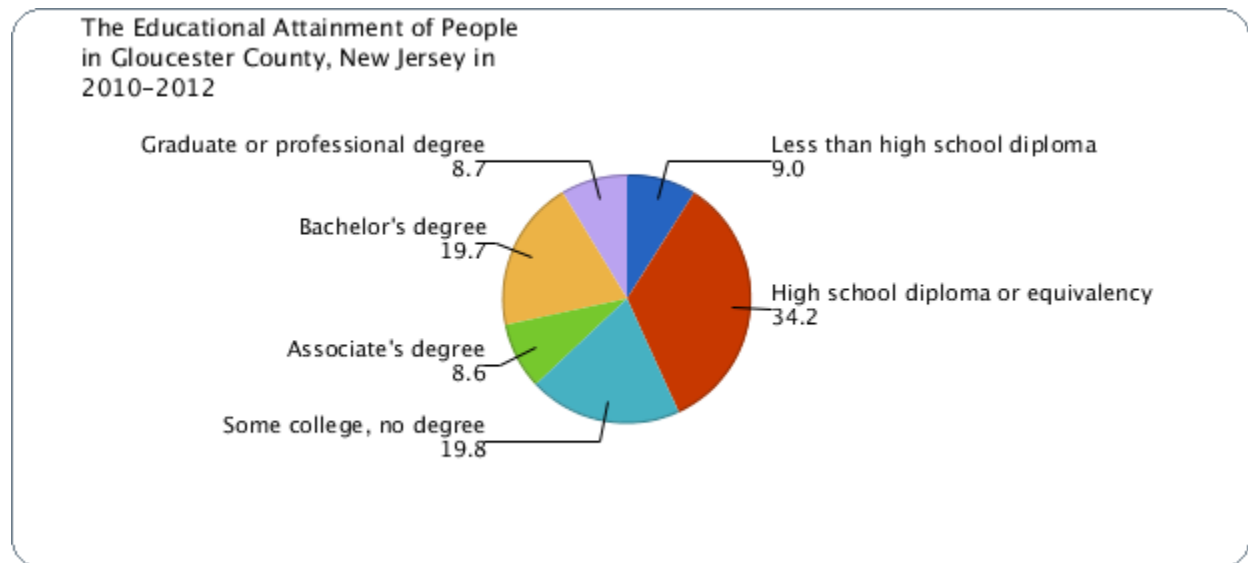


For people reporting one race alone, 85 percent were White; 10 percent were Black or African American; less than 0.5 percent were American Indian and Alaska Native; 3 percent were Asian; less than 0.5 percent were Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and 2 percent were Some other race. Two percent reported Two or more races. Five percent of the people in Gloucester County, New Jersey were Hispanic. Eighty-one percent of the people in Gloucester County, New Jersey were White non-Hispanic. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Education

In 2010-2012, 34 percent of people 25 years and over had a high school diploma or equivalency and 28 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. Nine percent were dropouts; they were not enrolled in school and had not graduated from high school.

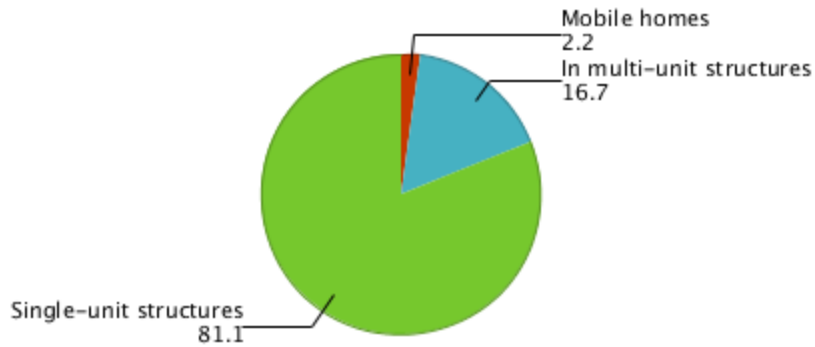
The total school enrollment in Gloucester County, New Jersey was 79,000 in 2010-2012. Nursery school and kindergarten enrollment was 9,000 and elementary or high school enrollment was 48,000 children. College or graduate school enrollment was 22,000.



Housing Characteristics

In 2010-2012, Gloucester County, New Jersey had a total of 111,000 housing units, 5 percent of which were vacant. Of the total housing units, 81 percent were in single-unit structures, 17 percent were in multi-unit structures, and 2 percent were mobile homes. Thirty-percent of the housing units were built since 1990.

The Types of Housing Units in Gloucester County, New Jersey in 2010-2012

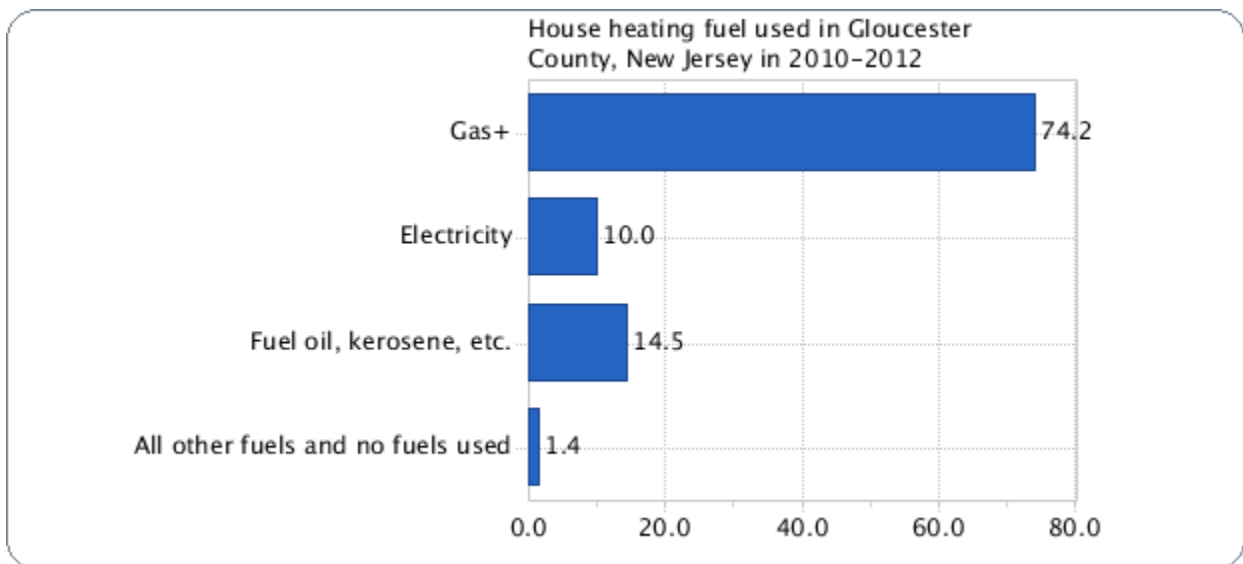


The median number of rooms in all housing units in Gloucester County, New Jersey is 7. Of these housing units, 70 percent have three or more bedrooms.

Occupied Housing Unit Characteristics

In 2010-2012, Gloucester County, New Jersey had 105,000 occupied housing units - 84,000 (81 percent) owner occupied and 20,000 (19 percent) renter occupied. Fifty-six percent of householders of these units had moved in since 2000. Seventy-four percent of the owner occupied units had a mortgage. One percent of the households did not have telephone service. Six percent had no vehicles available and another 22 percent had three or more.

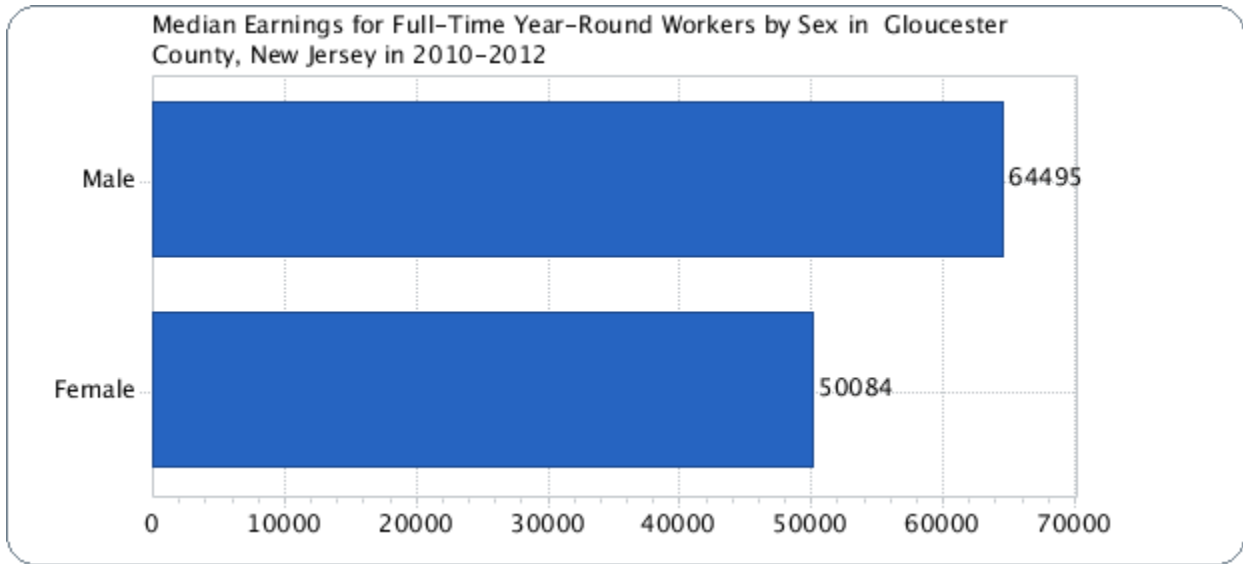
Homes in Gloucester County, New Jersey were heated in the following ways:



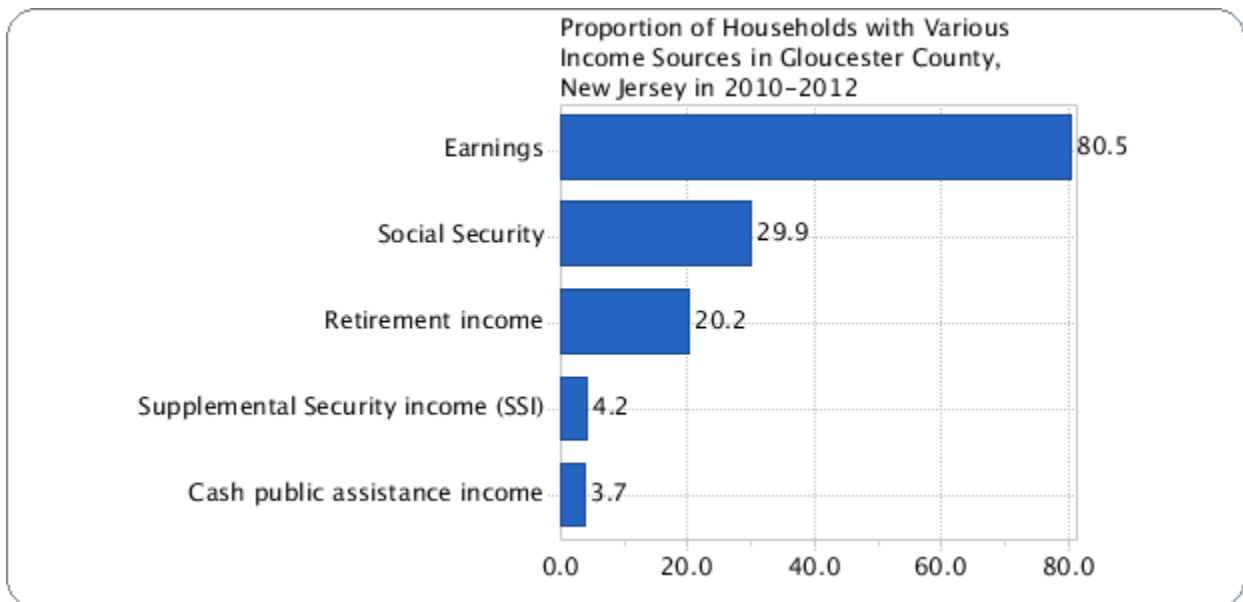
+this category includes utility, bottled, tank, or LP gas

Income

The median income of households in Gloucester County, New Jersey was \$74,012. Seven percent of households had income below \$15,000 a year and 15 percent had income over \$150,000 or more.

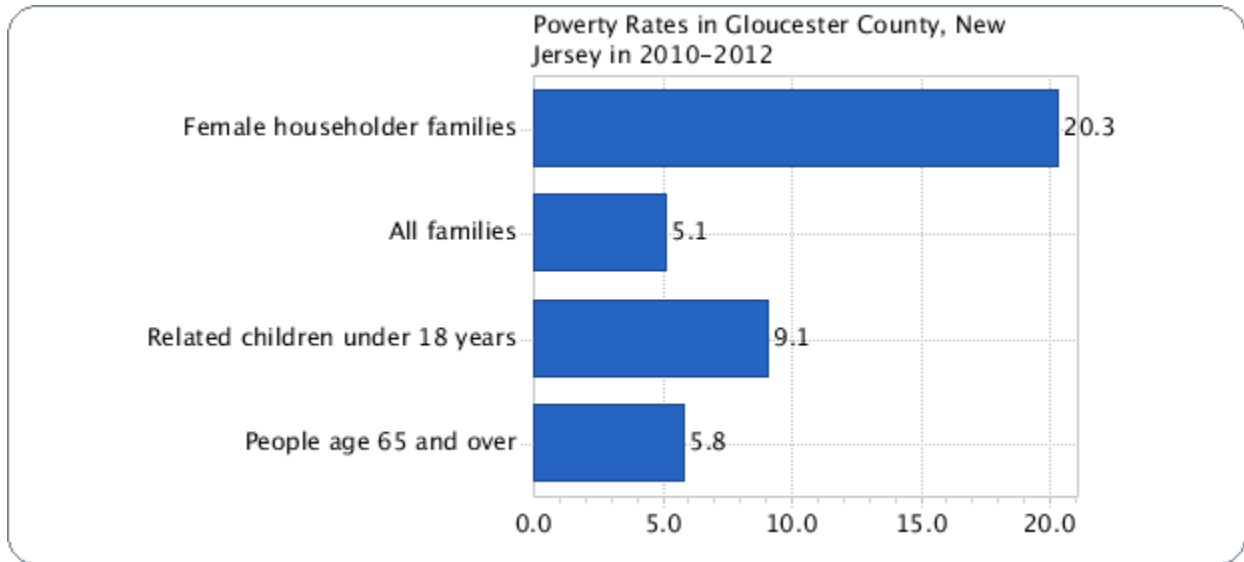


Eighty-one percent of the households received earnings and 20 percent received retirement income other than Social Security. Thirty-percent of the households received Social Security. The average income from Social Security was \$18,516. These income sources are not mutually exclusive; that is, some households received income from more than one source.



Poverty and Participation in Government Programs

In 2010-2012, 8 percent of people were in poverty. Nine percent of related children under 18 were below the poverty level, compared with 6 percent of people 65 years old and over. Five percent of all families and 20 percent of families with a female householder and no husband present had incomes below the poverty level.



Poverty in Gloucester County

	Number	Percent
Total Population (all ages)	284,347	100 %
Below 50% FPL	9,927	3.5%
Below 100% FPL	20,682	7.3%
Below 200% FPL	52,592	18.5%
Child Poverty (below 18 years)		
Total Children	68,509	100 %
Below 50% FPL	3,815	5.6%
Below 100% FPL	7,395	10.8%
Below 200% FPL	15,179	22.2%

Poverty by Race

	Total	Below FPL (#)	Below FPL (%)
White (not Hispanic or Latino)	229,215	10,533	4.6%
Black or African American	28,250	6,488	23.0%
Hispanic or Latino	14,181	2,315	16.3%
Children			
White (not Hispanic or Latino)	50,567	2,093	4.1%
Black or African American	7,511	3,434	45.7%
Hispanic or Latino	5,243	1,232	23.5%

The Gloucester County Human Services Advisory Council’s most recent Needs Assessment conducted for the New Jersey Department of Children and Families identified and ranked the top 18 needs of Gloucester County’s At-Risk Children and Families.

The results are as follows:

1. Housing;
2. Transportation;
3. Housing Services for Transitioning Older Youth;
4. Mental Health Services for Youth (Inpatient);
5. Mental Health Services for Adults or Youths (Outpatient);
6. Child Care;
7. Family Support for Parenting Education and/or Skills;
8. Life Skills Training/Services for Transitioning Older Youth;
9. Substance Abuse Services for Youth (Inpatient);
10. Employment Services for Transitioning Older Youth;
11. Mental Health Services for Adults (Inpatient);
12. Educational Services for Transitioning Older Youth;
13. Substance Abuse Services for Youth (Outpatient);
14. Basic Health Care;
15. Substance Abuse Services for Adults (Inpatient);
16. Substance Abuse Services for Adults (Outpatient);
17. Literacy and/or English as a Second Language;
18. Food.

Gloucester County

	Gloucester County New Jersey	
Population, 2010	288,288	8,791,894
Persons under 5 years, percent, 2013	5.7%	6.0%
Persons under 18 years, percent, 2013	23.3%	22.7%
Persons 65 years and over, percent, 2013	13.7%	14.4%
Living in same house 1 year & over, percent, 2008-2012	91.1%	90.0%
Foreign born persons, percent, 2008-2012	5.1%	20.8%
Language other than English spoken at home, pct age 5+, 2008-2012	8.6%	29.6%
Median household income, 2008-2012	\$74,915	\$71,637
Persons below poverty level, percent, 2008-2012	7.7%	9.9%

Head Start Eligible Population- Gloucester County

Approximately 1,797 preschool children living in Gloucester County eligible for Early Head Start and Head Start services, according to a Gateway Community Action projection (see chart below). Of those not served by Head Start, parents are able to access child care services through Quality Care Resource and Referral, which helps with subsidies and referrals to child care. Despite the resources in the area, there remains a need for quality, affordable early childhood programs.

GLOUCESTER COUNTY 2020-21
ESTIMATING HEAD START ELIGIBLE CHILDREN
FREE LUNCH DATA

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3			COLUMN 4
MUNICIPALITY	FIRST AND SECOND GRADERS GOING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL	CALCULATION OF PERCENT RECEIVING FREE LUNCH			ESTIMATE OF HEAD START ELIGIBLE
		2013-2014			
NORTH					
DEPTFORD	526	3871	1370	35.4	186
EAST GREENWICH	349	1303	93	7.1	25
GREENWICH	84	378	58	15.8	13
NATIONAL PARK	72	293	130	44.4	32
PAULSBORO*	179	1137	468	41.2	74
WENONAH	47	165	0	0	0
WEST DEPTFORD	373	2893	150	5.2	19
WESTVILLE	82	338	189	55.9	46
WOODBURY*	215	1600	165	10.3	22
WOODBURY HTS.	66	299	71	23.6	16
CENTRAL					
CLAYTON	176	1431	640	44.7	79
ELK	73	311	55	17.7	31
GLASSBORO*	235	1811	882	48.7	114
MANTUA	277	1200	227	18.9	52
MONROE*	687	5621	1563	27.8	191
PITMAN	164	1119	108	9.6	16
WASHINGTON TWP.	941	6995	1455	20.8	196
WEST					
HARRISON	349	1306	142	10.9	38

SO. HARRISON	87	315	42	13.4	12
SWEDSBORO/WOOLWICH*	384	1495	205	13.7	53
LOGAN	110	839	130	15.5	17
SOUTH					
FRANKLIN	354	1302	413	31.7	112
TOTAL	5830	36,022	8556		1344

Greatest Needs of Head Start Eligible Children

Children and families of Gloucester County need services that include providing a safe place for children to learn and grow. Gateway Community Action Partnership’s programs such as Head Start Centers, become a resource for parents to become advocates for a safe community for children to grow. According to the 2016 Kids Count, Gloucester County ranks 10 out of 21 counties in New Jersey in child welfare. (see Kids Count Chart below)

Gloucester County At-a-Glance

Total Population, 2018	291,408
Child Population, 2018	63,440
Median Income of Families with Children, 2018	\$123,210



		Gloucester	NJ
Child and Family Economics	Percent of Children Living Below the Poverty Threshold, 2018	9%	14%
	Percent of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Rent, 2018	51%	49%
	Unemployment Rate, 2018	4.2	4.1
Child Health	Percent of Babies Born with Low Birthweights, 2017	8.6%	8.0%
	Percent of Children Under Age 6 Tested for Lead, 2017	12%	26%
	Percent of Children Under Age 19 Without Health Insurance, 2018	1.5%	3.9%
Education	High School Graduation Rate, 2017-18	93%	91%
	Percent Meeting/Exceeding Expectations on 3rd Grade ELA PARCC Exam, 2017-18	52%	52%
	Percent of Students Chronically Absent, 2016-17	8%	10%
Safety and Well-Being	Percent of Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Working and Not in School, 2013-2017	10%	11%
	Percent of Reported Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect, 2017	9.1%	7.1%
	Juvenile Arrest Rate (per 1,000), 2016	9.3	10.1



Advocates for Children of New Jersey is the trusted, independent voice putting children's needs first for over 40 years. Our work results in better laws and policies, more effective funding and stronger services for children and families. And it means that more children are given the chance to grow up safe, healthy and educated.

KIDS COUNT® is a national and state-by-state data effort to track child well-being and is sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

©2019 Advocates for Children of New Jersey • ACNJ.org • 973.643.3876

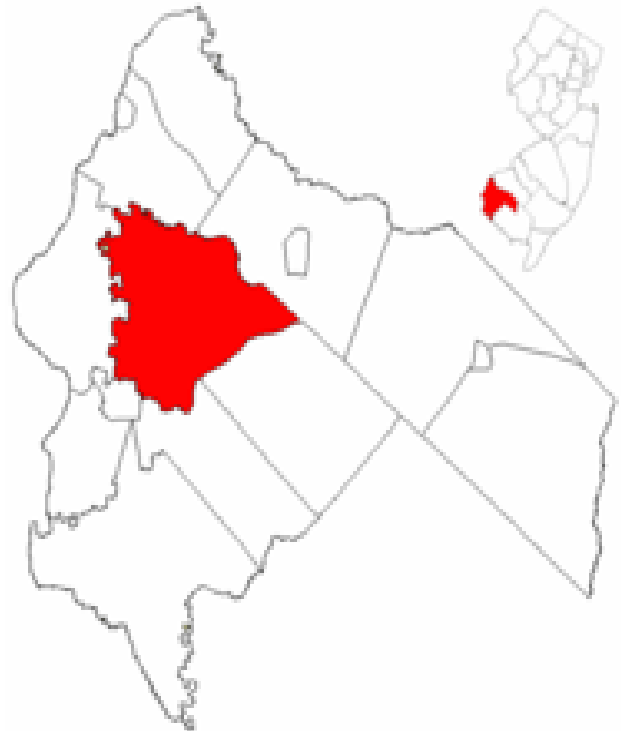
SALEM COUNTY, NJ

Salem County is located in the most southwestern part of New Jersey, 35 miles south of Philadelphia and occupies 336 square miles. It is bordered by Gloucester and Cumberland Counties and on the west by the Delaware River. It also has a population of less than 67,000—the lowest population and the lowest density per square mile in New Jersey.

Salem County is rich with agricultural communities – like Quinton and Alloways townships, but it also has pockets small, urbanized communities – like Salem City and Penns Grove, which suffer from low-income, high unemployment and poor educational results. Additionally, Salem has suburbanized municipalities like Woodstown and Pennville. Salem County is host to the largest nuclear generation facility in the state in Lower Alloways Creek Township.

Area	336 square miles
Composition	43% Farmland
Largest Municipality	Salem City
Population Density	
Total Population	67,000
Percent of New Jersey Population	1%
Child Population	66,762
Percent of NJ Child Population	4%
County Single-Parent Households	6%
County Children Living Below Poverty	10%
Households Speaking Language Other Than English at Home	8.6%
Head Start Eligible Population	3,030
Median Income for Families with Children	\$93,000
Unemployment Rates	7.4%
Health Insurance	89%

Salem County, NJ



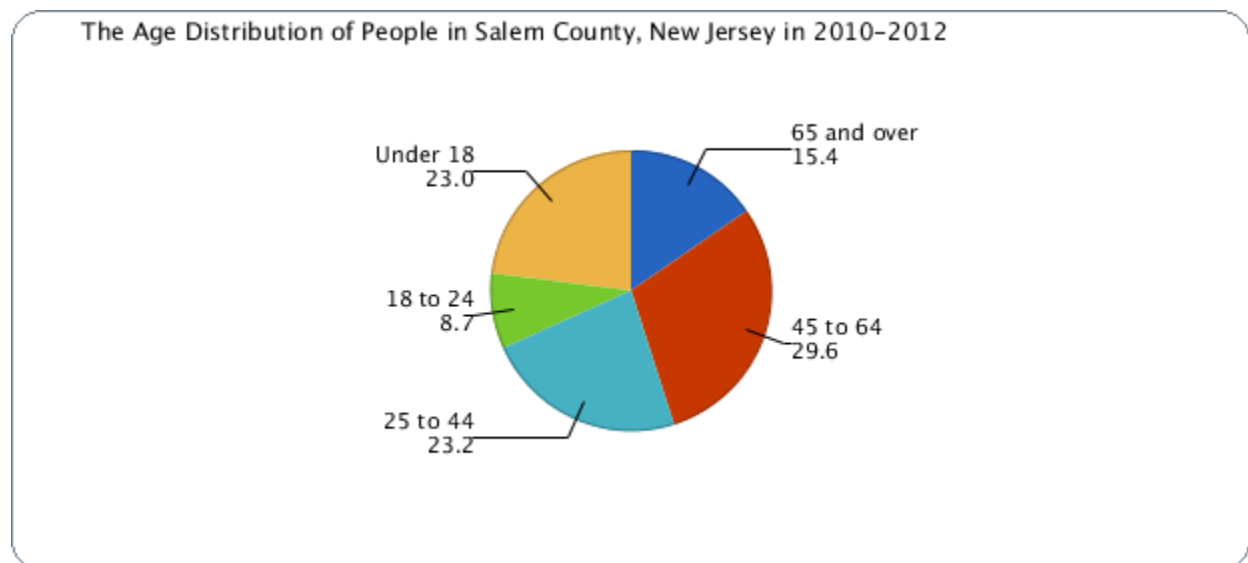
Geography

Salem County lies in the southwest corner of our great state of New Jersey. It is bounded by the Delaware River and Bay to the west and the Maurice River to the east. It also boasts a population of less than 67,000—the lowest population and the lowest density per square mile in New Jersey.

Salem County covers 338 square miles with nearly half the land in the county (42.6 percent) under active farm cultivation. According to the 2011 U.S. census, 66,902 individuals reside in the fifteen municipalities of Salem County. This was an increase from the 2010 census which listed 66,083 individuals in the county.

Population

In 2010-2012, Salem County, New Jersey had a total population of 66,000 - 34,000 (51 percent) females and 32,000 (49 percent) males. The median age was 41.6 years. Twenty-three percent of the population was under 18 years and 15 percent was 65 years and older.



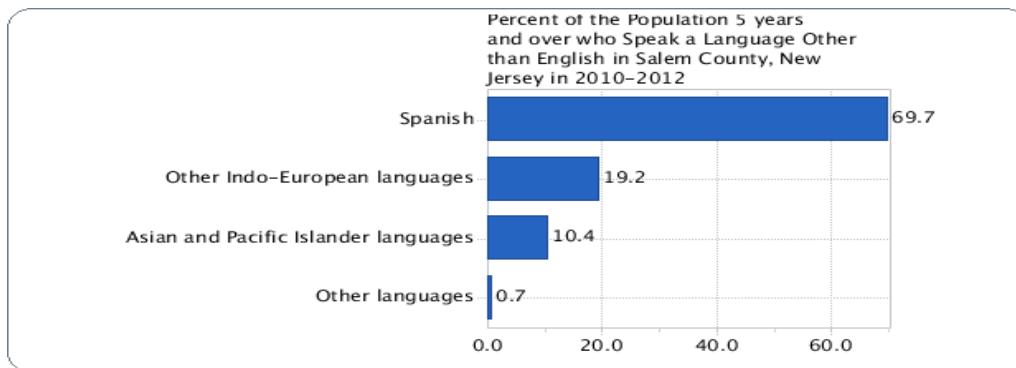
	Salem County	New Jersey
Population, 2013 estimate	65,166	8,899,339
Persons under 5 years, percent, 2013	5.8%	6.0%
White alone, percent, 2013	81.8%	73.4%
Black or African American alone, percent, 2013	14.7%	14.7%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent, 2013	0.5%	0.6%
Asian alone, percent, 2013	1.0%	9.2%

Two or More Races, percent, 2013	2.0%	2.0%
Hispanic or Latino, percent, 2013	7.7%	18.9%

For people reporting one race alone, 81 percent were White; 15 percent were Black or African American; less than 0.5 percent were American Indian and Alaska Native; 1 percent were Asian; less than 0.5 percent were Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and 3 percent were Some other race. Two percent reported Two or more races. Seven percent of the people in Salem County, New Jersey were Hispanic. Seventy-six percent of the people in Salem County, New Jersey were White non-Hispanic. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

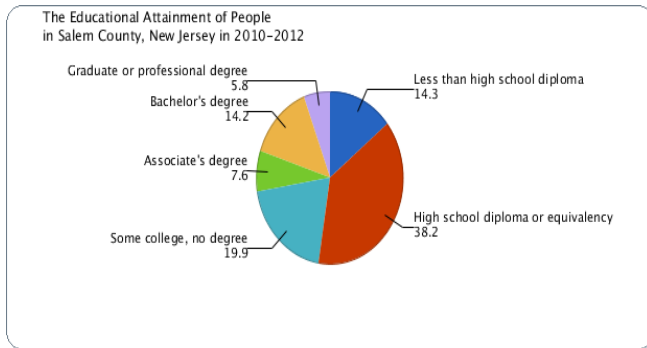
Language

Among people at least five years old living in Salem County, New Jersey in 2010-2012, 8 percent spoke a language other than English at home. Of those speaking a language other than English at home, 70 percent spoke Spanish and 30 percent spoke some other language; 41 percent reported that they did not speak English "very well."



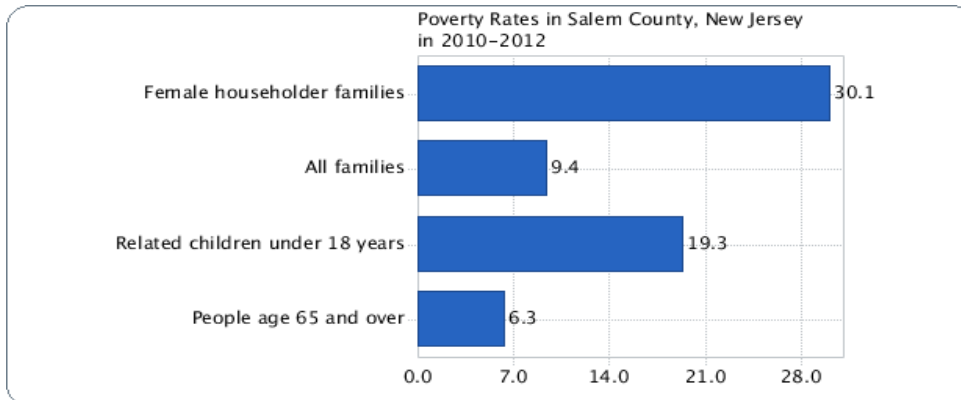
Education

In 2010-2012, 38 percent of people 25 years and over had a high school diploma or equivalency and 20 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. Fourteen percent were dropouts; they were not enrolled in school and had not graduated from high school.



Poverty and Participation in Government Programs

In 2010-2012, 12 percent of people were in poverty. Nineteen percent of related children under 18 were below the poverty level, compared with 6 percent of people 65 years old and over. Nine percent of all families and 30 percent of families with a female householder and no husband present had incomes below the poverty level.



Head Start Eligible Population- Salem County

Approximately 644 preschool children living in Gloucester County eligible for Early Head Start and Head Start services, according to a Gateway Community Action projection (see chart below). Of those not served by Head Start, parents are able to access child care services through Quality Care Resource and Referral, which helps with subsidies and referrals to child care.

SALEM COUNTY 2020-21
ESTIMATING HEAD START ELIGIBLE CHILDREN
FREE LUNCH DATA

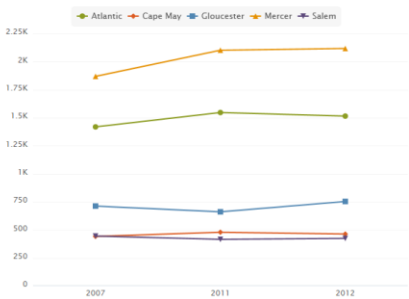
COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3			COLUMN 4
MUNICIPALITY	FIRST AND SECOND GRADERS GOING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL	CALCULATION OF PERCENT RECEIVING FREE LUNCH 2013-14			ESTIMATE OF HEAD START ELIGIBLE
		3A TOTAL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT	3B NUMBER RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	3C PERCENT RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	
NORTHWEST					
OLDMANS	52	282	60	21.3	11
PENNS GROVE/CARNEY'S PT*	317	2182	1606	73.6	233
WEST					
ALLOWAY	55	297	41	13.8	8
ELSINBORO	23	112	60	53.5	12
MANNINGTON	27	169	38	22.5	6
PENNSVILLE	197	1783	637	35.7	70
QUINTON	51	260	75	28.8	15
SALEM	184	1179	598	50.74	93
EAST					
ELMER	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
PITTS GROVE/ELMER	222	1660	466	28.1	62
UPPER PITTS GROVE	59	305	3	1	1
SOUTH					
LOWER ALLOWAY CR	34	163	39	24	8
CENTRAL					
PIESGROVE/WOODST OWN	186	1401	317	22.6	42
TOTAL	1,407	9,793	3,940		561

In a May 2013 Comprehensive Human Services Plan for Salem County prepared by the Salem Inter Agency Council/Human Services Advisory Council, the following areas were identified as Level 1, or immediate and critical issues:

- Basic Needs (food, healthcare, emergency housing)
- Housing (affordable)
- Transportation
- Level 2 issues that are often the cause of level one issues are: long waiting lists, lack of communication between agencies, limited hours availability, collaborative partnerships.

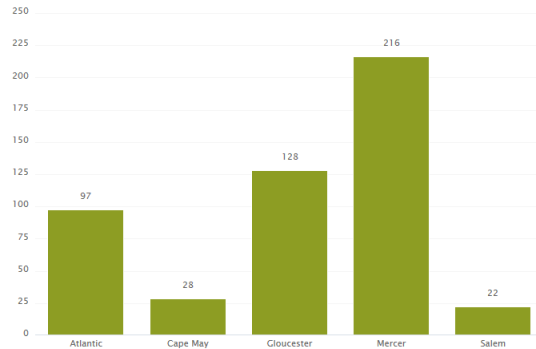
Level Two Issues:

- Lack of communication between agencies
- Long waiting lists
- Limited hours of availability
- Lack of Collaborative Partnerships



STUDENTS ENROLLED IN STATE-FUNDED PRESCHOOL: TOTAL (NUMBER)

Advocates for Children of New Jersey
KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org
A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation



LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTERS (NUMBER) - 2012

Advocates for Children of New Jersey
KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org
A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation

Greatest Needs of Head Start Eligible Children


Salem County is currently the fourth lowest per capita income in the State of New Jersey. In 2011, 13 % of residents of Salem County were in poverty with the highest percentage in Salem City (28.36%) and Penns Grove (28.18%). Twenty-two percent of related children under 18 were below the poverty level, compared with 4% of people 65 years old and over. Ten percent of all families and 34% of families with a female householder and no husband present had incomes below the poverty level. According to the 2013-2015 Salem County Comprehensive HS Plan, the largest concern in Salem County was transportation followed by 20% of children living in poverty.

Children and families of Salem County need services that include providing a safe place for children to learn and grow. Gateway Community Action Partnership’s programs such as Head Start Centers, Family Success Centers and our WIC programs become a resource for parents to


become advocates for a safe community for children to grow. According to the 2016 Kids Count, Salem County ranks 19 out of 21 counties in New Jersey in child welfare. (see Kids Count Chart below)

Salem County At-a-Glance

Total Population, 2018	62,607
Child Population, 2018	13,379
Median Income of Families with Children, 2018	\$67,428



		Salem	NJ
Child and Family Economics	Percent of Children Living Below the Poverty Threshold, 2018	16%	14%
	Percent of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Rent, 2018	55%	49%
	Unemployment Rate, 2018	5.4	4.1
Child Health	Percent of Babies Born with Low Birthweights, 2017	8.2%	8.0%
	Percent of Children Under Age 6 Tested for Lead, 2017	18%	26%
	Percent of Children Under Age 19 Without Health Insurance, 2018	2.2%	3.9%
Education	High School Graduation Rate, 2017-18	90%	91%
	Percent Meeting/Exceeding Expectations on 3rd Grade ELA PARCC Exam, 2017-18	43%	52%
	Percent of Students Chronically Absent, 2016-17	11%	10%
Safety and Well-Being	Percent of Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Working and Not in School, 2013-2017	14%	11%
	Percent of Reported Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect, 2017	12.2%	7.1%
	Juvenile Arrest Rate (per 1,000), 2016	16.7	10.1



Advocates for Children of New Jersey is the trusted, independent voice putting children's needs first for over 40 years. Our work results in better laws and policies, more effective funding and stronger services for children and families. And it means that more children are given the chance to grow up safe, healthy and educated.

KIDS COUNT® is a national and state-by-state data effort to track child well-being and is sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

©2019 Advocates for Children of New Jersey • ACNJ.org • 973.643.3876

Mercer County

MERCER COUNTY 2020-21					
ESTIMATING HEAD START ELIGIBLE CHILDREN					
FREE LUNCH DATA					
COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3			COLUMN 4
MUNICIPALITY	First and Second graders going to Public School	Calculation of percent receiving free lunch 2018-2019			Estimate of Head Start Eligible
		3a Total district Enrollment	3b Number receiving free lunch	3c Percent receiving free lunch	
NORTHWEST					
Robbinsville	350	3077	110	3.6	13
Hopewell Valley Regional (Includes Hopewell Borough, Hopewell Twp. and Pennington Borough)	451	3383	112	3.3	15
Ewing Township	429	3347	1540	46.0	197
Lawrence Township	478	3632	988	27.2	130
SOUTHEAST					
East Windsor Twp. (includes Hightstown Borough)	692	4985	1934	38.5	266
SOUTHWEST					
Hamilton Township	1581	11,388	4658	40.9	647
Trenton City* (excludes charter schools)	2367	12,879	6633	51.5	1219
NORTHEAST					
Princeton Borough and Township (includes charter school)	384	3638	469	12.9	50
West Windsor Twp.	1176	9274	454	4.9	58
TOTAL	6732	46,329	16,444		2,537

Atlantic County

**ATLANTIC COUNTY 2020-21
ESTIMATING HEAD START ELIGIBLE CHILDREN
FREE LUNCH DATA**

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3			COLUMN 4
MUNICIPALITY	FIRST AND SECOND GRADERS GOING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL	CALCULATION OF PERCENT RECEIVING FREE LUNCH 2018-19			ESTIMATE OF HEAD START ELIGIBLE
		3A TOTAL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT	3B NUMBER RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	3C PERCENT RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	
Buena Regional (Boro & Twp)	233	1636	908	56.0	130
Folsom Borough	70	385	90	23.4	16
Hammonton	318	3383	771	27.0	
Mullica Twp.	105	651	285	43.7	46
Hamilton Twp.	509	2857	1302	45.6	232
Weymouth Twp.	33	143	49	34.3	11
Egg Harbor Twp.	866	7109	3036	42.7	370
Estell Manor	43	189	34	18.0	8
Corbin City	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Egg Harbor City	101	509	356	70.0	71
Port Republic	23	105	0	0	0
Galloway Twp	599	3171	1449	45.7	274
Somers Point	140	787	482	61.2	86
Linwood	155	807	97	12.0	19
Northfield	161	881	181	20.5	33
Pleasantville	505	3403	2756	81	409
Absecon	170	887	414	46.7	79
Brigantine	84	444	187	42.1	35
Atlantic City	911	6450	5489	85.1	775
Ventnor	107	611	304	49.7	53
Margate	74	382	26	6.8	5
Longport	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	5207	34,790	18,216		2737

Cape May County

CAPE MAYCOUNTY 2020-21					
ESTIMATING HEAD START ELIGIBLE CHILDREN					
FREE LUNCH DATA					
COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3			COLUMN 4
MUNICIPALITY	FIRST AND SECOND GRADERS GOING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL	CALCULATION OF PERCENT RECEIVING FREE LUNCH			ESTIMATE OF HEAD START ELIGIBLE
		2018-19			
		3A TOTAL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT	3B NUMBER RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	3C PERCENT RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH	
Ocean City	124	2039	279	13.7	17
Upper Twp.	284	1346	192	14.3	40
Woodbine	37	210	155	73.9	27
Dennis Twp.	118	604	140	23.2	27
Sea Isle City	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Avalon Borough	0	0	0	0	0
Middle Twp.	338	2458	1207	49.1	166
Stone Harbor	40	92	0	0	0
North Wildwood	35	193	103	53.4	19
West Wildwood	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wildwood City	110	834	684	82.0	90
Wildwood Crest	48	252	93	36.9	18
Lower Twp.	353	1495	734	49.1	173
Cape May City	42	154	45	29.2	12
Cape May Point	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
West Cape May	27	79	13	16.5	4
TOTAL	1,556	9,833	3,645		566

Philadelphia, Pa.

**GERMANTOWN-LEHIGH (North Philadelphia, PA) 2020-21
ESTIMATING HEAD START ELIGIBLE CHILDREN
FREE LUNCH DATA**

School Name	Zip Code	Number of First and Second Graders	Total Enrollment	Number Receiving Free & Reduced Lunch	Percent Receiving Free & Reduced Lunch	Estimate of HS Eligible
Central Area						
Paul Dunbar	19122	59	262	244	93.1	55
James Ludlow	19122	42	270	244	90.3	38
William McKinley	19122	74	498	374	75.1	56
John Moffett	19122	108	260	217	83.4	90
TOTAL FOR Central 19122 ZIP		283	1290	1079		239
Southern Area						
Gen. Phillip Kearny	19123	67	272	251	92.2	62
Math, Civics and Sciences CS	19123	176	1016	718	70.6	124
Spring Garden	19123	54	290	236	81.3	44
TOTAL For Southern 19123 ZIP		297	1578	1205		230
Eastern Area						
Alexander Adaire	19125	139	452	190	42.0	59
Henry Brown Sch	19125	57	362	331	91.4	52
Horatio Hackett	19125	140	358	225	62.8	88
TOTAL For Eastern 19125 ZIP		336	1172	746		199
Western Area						
Dr. Allen Ethel	19132	111	461	426	92.4	103

Barry Comm. Johnson	19132	151	593	523	88.1	133
Thomas M. Pierce	19132	90	328	337	92.8	97
Richard R. Wright	19132	105	363	337	92.8	97
Rhodes E Washington	19132	89	482	432	89.6	168
KIPP Charter Sch	19132	198	872	329	37.7	75
TOTAL for Western 19132 ZIP		744	3099	2343		657
Northern Area						
Mastery C.S (George Clymer)	19133	135	546	487	89.1	120
Deburgou Bilingual Mag. MS	19133	140	760	748	98.4	138
John F. Hartranft	19133	89	447	442	98.8	88
William H. Hunter	19133	93	523	493	94.2	88
Pan Amer. Academy CS	19133	189	758	634	83.6	158
Potter Thomas	19133	103	478	451	94.3	97
Issaac Sheppard	19133	81	173	165	95.3	77
John Welsh	19133	66	313	300	95.8	63
TOTAL for Northern 19133		896	3998	3720		829
19140						
Antonia Community Charter School	19140	181	699	537	76.8	139
Bethune Mary Mccleod School	19140	118	532	500	93.9	111
Cayuga School	19140	121	374	358	95.7	116

Cramp William School	19140	137	446	428	95.9	131
Eugenio Maria Charter School	19140	130	507	345	68.0	88
Mcclure Alexander School	19140	186	548	534	97.4	181
Munoz-Martin Luis Elementary School	19140	141	594	539	90.7	128
Bethune Mary Mccleod School	19140	118	558	500	89.6	106
Steel Edward School	19140	92	401	397	99.0	91
Kenderton Elementary	19140	104	466	463	99.3	103
Taylor Bayard School	19140	157	455	447	98.2	154
TOTAL for 19140		1485	5580	5048		1348
TOTALS		4041	16,717	14,141		3502

**Brightside Academy Proposed EHS Locations within Philadelphia, Pa., 2020-21
ESTIMATING HEAD START ELIGIBLE CHILDREN
FREE LUNCH DATA**

School Name	Zip Code	Number of First and Second Graders	Total Enrollment	Number Receiving Free & Reduced Lunch	Percent Receiving Free & Reduced Lunch	Estimate of HS Eligible
19134						
Richmond 2944 Belgrade St	19134	144	512	432	84.37%	121
Ad Prima Charter School	19134	122	369	223	60.43%	74
TOTAL FOR Central 19134 ZIP						195
19132, 19140, 19133, 19125, 19123 and 19122 (see above)						
19149						
Gilbert Spruance	19149	256	1376	1057	76.81%	197
Total for ZIP 19149						197
19141						
Julia Ward Howell	19141	83	252	209	82.93%	69
Gen. David B. Birney C.S.	19141	147	726	589	81.12%	119
Total for ZIP 19141						188
19124						

Mastery C.S. @ Smedley	19124	224	761	651	85.5%	192
Mariana Bracetti Academy C.S.	19124	292	1148	935	81.44%	238
John Marshall	19124	103	370	332	89.72%	262
Community Academy C.S. (Erie Ave.)	19124	120	1224	909	74.26	89
1 st Phila. Prep. C.S. (Taconey St.)	19124	311	806	600	74.44%	232
Northwood Academy C.S.	19124	178	783	504	64.36%	115
Phila. C.S. for Arts and Sciences @ Edmunds	19124	231	1047	825	78.79%	182
Total for ZIP 19124						1,310
19111						
Crossan C. Kennedy	19111	104	326	226	69.32%	72
Tacony Academy C.S. (Rhawn St.)	19111	161	696	387	55.60%	90
Math, Science and Tech. Community C.S. MaST II, (Rising Sun Ave.)	19111	306	606	386	63.69%	195
Total For ZIP 19111						357
19119						
Charley W. Henry	19119	127	504	224	44.44%	56
TOTAL for ZIP 19119						56
19120						
Universal Charter School @ Creighton	19120	135	758	546	72.03%	97

Eugenio Mario De Hostos C.S. (N. 2 nd St.)	19120	140	526	345	65.55%	92
TOTAL for ZIP 19120						189
19140						
Esperanza Academy C.S. (Hunting Park Ave.)	19140	N/A	144	117	81/25%	N/A
Mary McLeod Bethune	19140	118	558	500	89.60%	106
TOTAL for ZIP 19140						106

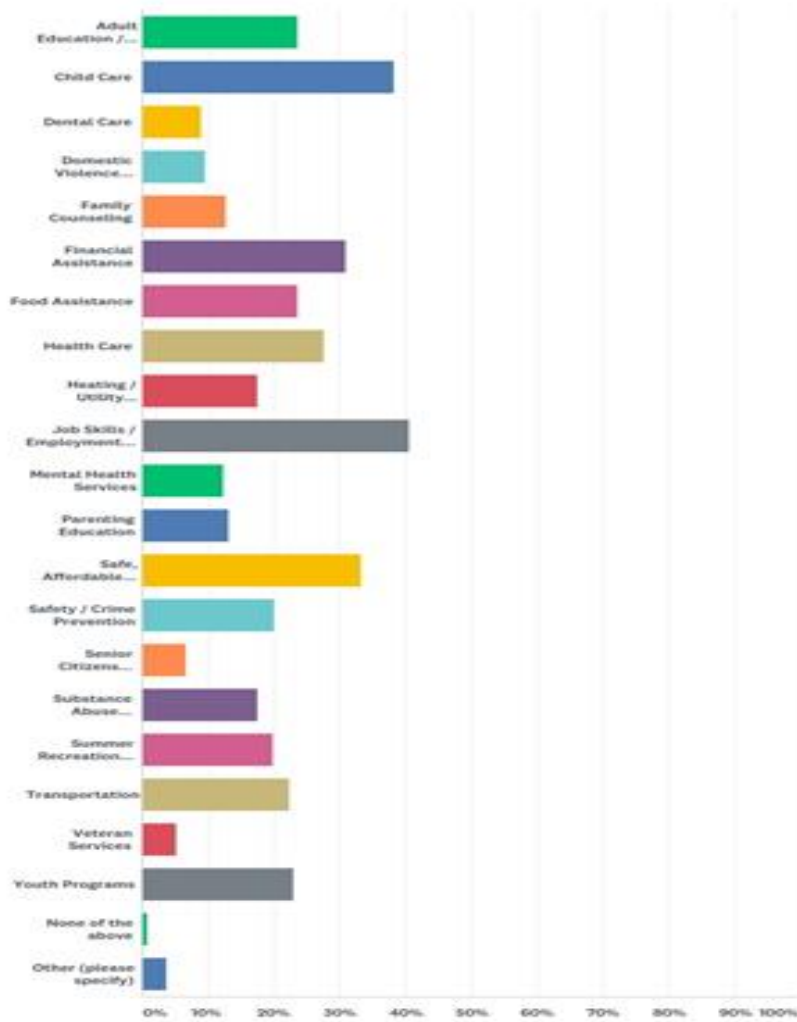
FINDINGS

Summary of Community Survey Data

A survey was administered to Gateway Community Action Partnership clients, staff, along with leaders from area nonprofit and public social service organizations.

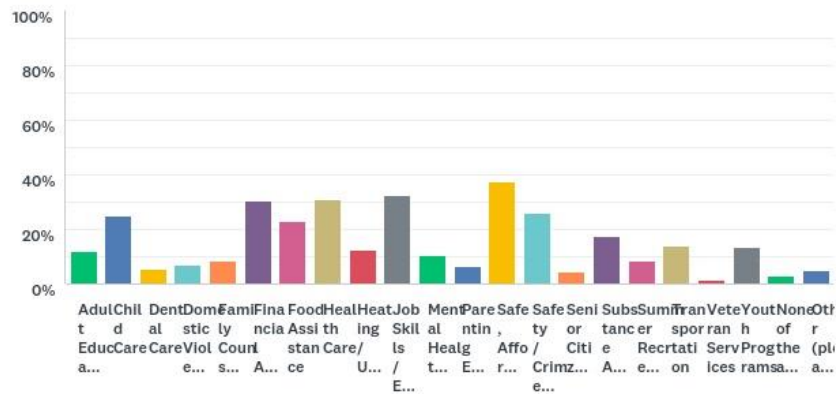
The survey asked respondents select the top most pressing needs of the low-income population of families within the agency service area. Looking across all of the factors presented, “job skills/employment training” was selected most frequently (41% of responses) closely followed by, “childcare assistance” selected in 39 percent of responses. The top five most pressing needs according to stakeholders are: (#1) getting education or job training; (#2) finding affordable child care; (#3) having safe and affordable housing arrangements; (#4) financial assistance, and (#5) food assistance. The following chart shows the result.

What are the top most pressing needs of the low-income population in your County?
Check only three:



Survey respondents were also asked to select three challenging community issues that they think low-income households will face in the next three years. The following chart displays the frequency of selections for each community issue.

What are the most challenging community issues that low-income households in your County will face in the next three years? Check only three:



Finally, survey respondents had the opportunity to answer an open-ended question in which they were prompted to state one service that has helped them or someone in their household the most within the past 12 months. Food Assistance was the number one response with 25% of respondents.

Food	25.07%
Electric	11.73%
WIC	9.33%
Gateway	8.53%
Program	6.93%
Heating Assistance	6.40%
SNAP	6.13%
Utility	5.87%
Service	4%
Child Care	3.73%

Summary of Community Stakeholder Focus Group Data

A focus group of representatives from nonprofit and public social service agencies was convened to explore more deeply the needs of low-income children and families in the categories of Neighborhood

Safety, Job Training and Education, Financial Security and Self-Sufficiency, and Food Security and Well-Being, along with resources that exist to address them. In addition, the group discussed specific issues affecting service area residents and develop strategies to combat these issues.

Needs of Low-Income Families: Neighborhood Safety

When the group discussed the needs of low-income families relating to neighborhood safety, the conversation emphasized the need to develop programs that focus on neighborhood safety. Participants noted crime, violence and neighborhood shootings are occurring at an alarming rate in the communities Gateway serves. Recommendations included: Neighborhood Watch groups, increased police presence, community cameras and improved street lighting. These observations represent strategies that community members derived at when discussing ways to improve neighborhood safety. In addition, participants were able to speak with local law enforcement officers and work together with them to come up with goals to reduce crime in the neighborhoods within Gateway's service area.

Needs of Low-Income Families: Job Training/Education

We asked participants to talk specifically about the relationship between job training and education. Participants discussed the shortage of full-time jobs in the counties, and how this leads to other household issues. Participants noted that there are few job opportunities in the agency service area. Others noted that lack of transportation is a factor of maintaining employment.

Needs of Low-Income Families: Financial Security/Self-Sufficiency

When discussing the social services needs of low-income families, the group emphasized primarily the financial barriers preventing family success. The discussion began with group leaders asking participants their most needed social service. 37% of people responded by stating that financial assistance is their number one need. Many participants offered examples of the many bills waiting to be paid and their frustration at their lack of sufficient resources to pay them all. We asked them to describe what financial security means to them. One participant said, "Being able to pay the bills on time." 27% of participants reported "falling behind on mortgage or rent" and 32% of participants stated that they had been "pressured by a bill collector" in the past 30 days. 52% of participants indicated that they have recently borrowed money from friends or relatives to pay bills.

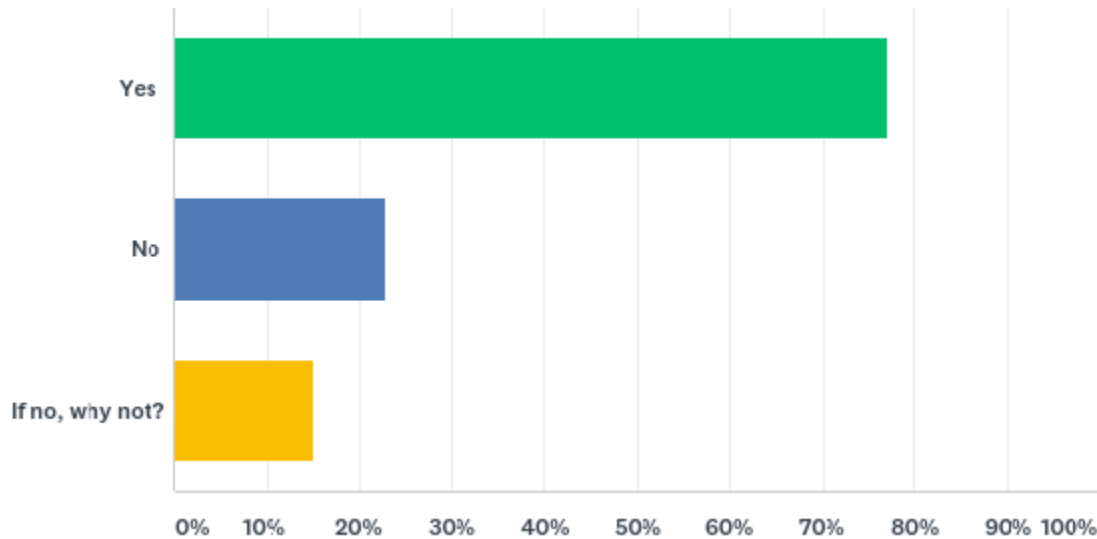
Needs of Low-Income Families: Food Security and Well-being

The focus group noted that food security and the ability to have access to healthy food is in issue in our communities. When asked what are participants top pressing needs, 24% of respondents indicated that food assistance is their families top need. The group also discussed two system barriers to better nutrition for low-income families. First, access to healthier food options in both urban and rural areas, forcing families to choose between buying enough food and buying healthier foods. Second, rural families lack convenient access to full service grocery stores. The group also identified social barriers to better nutrition for low-income families.

Findings & Recommendations

Finding 1: Families need concrete, safe neighborhoods to raise their families in.

When asked if participants felt safe in their neighborhoods, 23% of respondents indicated that they did not feel safe.

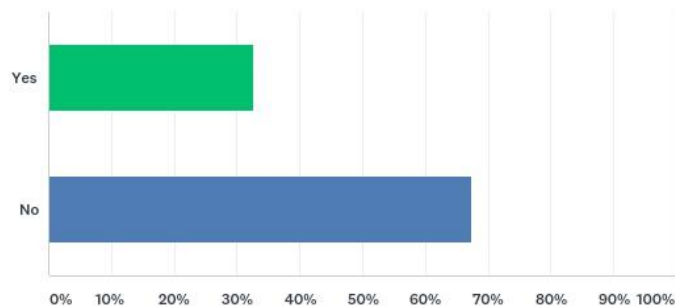


When asked why not, participants stated that the crime rates are very high, drugs and drug abuse are plaguing communities and guns are becoming a problem in the high poverty neighborhoods within Gateway’s service area.

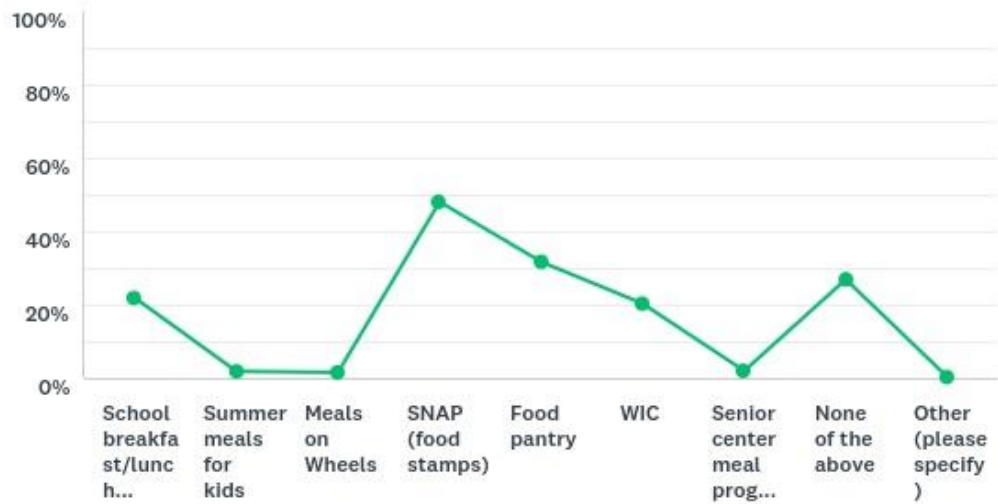
Finding 2: Families in Gateway’s service area suffer from food insecurity.

In both the survey and the focus group with community residents, many indicated that there are food issues that occur within our communities. Participants were asked a series of questions to determine their food needs. One question and the results are below:

In the past 12 months, have you or has anyone in your household skipped or cut the size of a meal because there was not enough food?



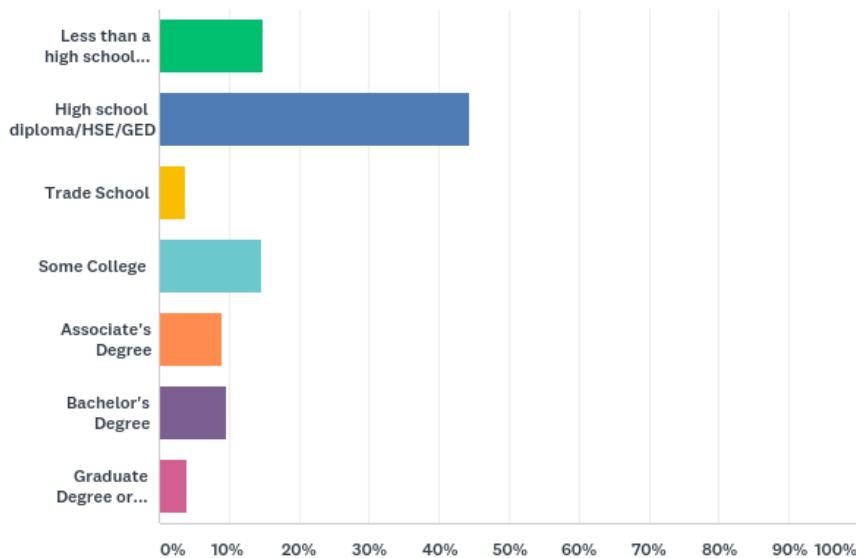
When asked about the use of food assistance services, 48% of respondents indicated that they receive SNAP benefits.



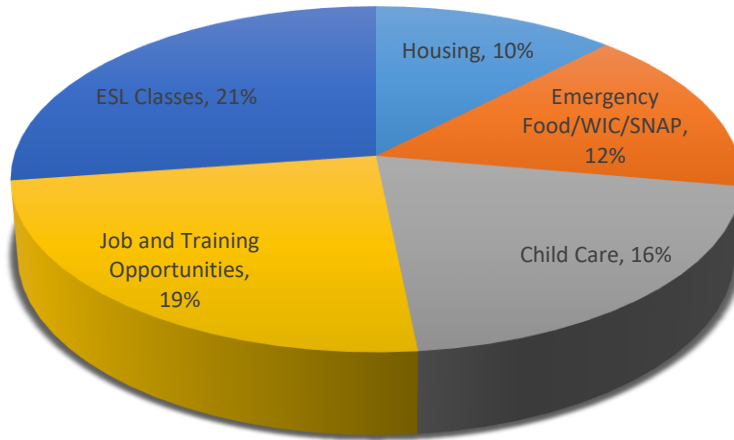
Finding 3: Employment and job training are needed in areas within Gateway’s service area.

Finding meaningful employment is a major issue for clients of the agency. Gateway’s service area includes both urban and rural areas, both presenting different challenges to clients seeking employment. Language was also indicated as a barrier to employment. Gateway’s service area includes a 51% Hispanic/Latino population who specify Spanish being their primary language. Lack of job readiness skills also contributes to the high unemployment rates within the communities the agencies serves.

When clients were asked their highest level of education, 15% of respondents indicated that they have “less than a high school diploma”.



Top Five Resources Requested by Families



Appendix 1

County	Total Homeless Persons	% of Total Homeless Persons	Chronic Homeless Persons	% of Chronic Homeless Persons	Unsheltered Homeless Persons	% of Unsheltered Homeless Persons
Atlantic	476	5.3%	53	6.3%	116	8.0%
Bergen	296	3.3%	10	1.2%	11	0.8%
Burlington	928	10.4%	140	16.7%	15	1.0%
Camden	683	7.6%	39	4.7%	150	10.4%
Cape May	133	1.5%	8	1.0%	9	0.6%
Cumberland	140	1.6%	19	2.3%	73	5.1%
Essex	1782	19.9%	99	11.8%	443	30.7%
Gloucester	112	1.3%	9	1.1%	7	0.5%
Hudson	829	9.3%	139	16.6%	226	15.7%
Hunterdon	133	1.5%	12	1.4%	2	0.1%
Mercer	465	5.2%	20	2.4%	44	3.1%
Middlesex	457	5.1%	46	5.5%	84	5.8%
Monmouth	344	3.8%	74	8.9%	45	3.1%
Morris	410	4.6%	34	4.1%	34	2.4%
Ocean	430	4.8%	73	8.7%	54	3.7%
Passaic	432	4.8%	27	3.2%	36	2.5%
Salem	40	0.4%	1	0.1%	6	0.4%
Somerset	218	2.4%	1	0.1%	9	0.6%
Sussex	80	0.9%	8	1.0%	10	0.7%
Union	513	5.7%	19	2.3%	62	4.3%
Warren	40	0.4%	5	0.6%	6	0.4%
Total	8941	100.0%	836	100.0%	1442	100.0%

2016-2017 Enrollment District Reported Data

County	White		Black		Hispanic		Native American		Asian		Hawaiian Native		Two or More Races		Total	Free Lunch	Reduced Lunch	LEP	Migrant
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female					
ATLANTIC	9,224.0	8,689.0	4,076.0	3,874.0	6,428.0	6,222.0	23.0	25.0	1,885.0	1,724.0	70.0	57.0	620.0	598.0	43,515.0	21,245.0	2,705.0	2,493.0	35.0
BERGEN	35,669.0	33,409.0	3,905.0	3,713.0	16,609.0	15,731.0	96.0	82.0	10,963.0	10,479.0	285.0	267.0	1,268.0	1,233.0	133,709.0	22,919.0	5,322.0	5,365.0	37.0
BURLINGTON	21,927.0	20,270.0	6,810.0	6,674.0	3,445.0	3,460.0	57.0	61.0	2,149.0	2,137.0	76.0	83.0	1,032.0	991.0	69,172.0	13,942.0	3,324.0	1,191.0	14.0
CAMDEN	18,199.0	16,806.0	8,920.0	8,422.0	8,431.0	7,794.0	56.0	45.0	2,662.0	2,553.0	56.0	68.0	1,010.0	981.0	76,003.0	27,905.0	4,045.0	2,491.0	9.0
CAPE MAY	4,799.0	4,641.0	547.0	535.0	907.0	826.0	7.0	8.0	74.0	83.0	12.0	7.0	72.0	65.0	12,583.0	4,184.0	713.0	361.0	.0
CUMBERLAND	4,032.5	3,807.5	2,881.0	2,806.0	6,082.0	6,052.0	57.0	62.0	153.0	165.0	8.0	8.0	317.0	320.5	26,751.5	15,058.0	1,449.0	2,075.0	95.0
ESSEX	16,969.5	15,831.5	22,210.5	20,907.5	16,654.5	15,671.5	78.0	89.0	3,320.0	3,096.0	202.0	227.0	833.0	851.0	116,941.0	51,600.5	5,342.5	7,333.0	77.0
GLOUCESTER	17,431.0	16,474.0	3,470.0	3,145.5	2,045.5	1,893.5	22.0	19.0	858.0	764.0	32.0	33.0	729.0	702.0	47,618.5	11,846.5	2,212.0	513.0	14.0
HUDSON	7,085.0	6,680.0	4,932.0	4,741.0	25,310.0	23,830.0	58.0	40.0	3,904.0	3,739.0	133.0	133.0	336.0	309.0	81,230.0	51,509.0	6,079.0	8,877.0	34.0
HUNTERDON	8,288.5	7,937.5	260.0	231.0	849.0	707.0	9.0	8.0	462.5	474.0	12.0	5.0	115.0	116.0	19,474.5	1,405.5	323.0	242.0	2.0
MERCER	10,168.5	9,281.5	5,930.5	5,551.5	6,798.5	6,308.5	20.0	19.0	5,606.0	5,304.0	27.0	22.0	693.0	625.0	56,355.0	17,799.5	2,775.0	3,465.0	4.0
MIDDLESEX	19,703.0	18,132.0	6,609.5	6,356.5	18,966.5	18,089.5	75.0	79.0	17,737.0	16,321.0	95.0	81.0	924.0	874.0	124,043.0	37,237.0	6,320.0	7,547.0	28.0
MONMOUTH	33,514.0	32,033.0	4,194.0	3,988.5	8,151.5	7,626.5	60.0	56.0	3,106.0	3,020.0	87.0	69.0	952.0	927.0	97,784.5	20,142.5	3,265.5	3,530.0	9.0
MORRIS	25,848.5	24,227.5	1,199.5	1,196.0	6,398.0	6,130.5	38.0	33.0	4,611.5	4,455.0	85.0	61.0	700.5	633.0	75,617.0	8,704.0	2,000.0	2,211.0	19.0
OCEAN	26,552.5	24,552.0	1,842.0	1,724.0	6,733.5	6,479.5	35.0	39.0	771.0	816.0	63.0	62.0	608.0	672.0	70,949.5	19,431.0	3,765.0	2,359.0	2.0
PASSAIC	12,446.0	11,379.0	4,236.5	3,920.0	22,780.0	21,646.5	53.0	56.0	2,088.5	1,982.0	58.0	62.0	134.0	158.0	80,999.5	44,855.5	2,642.0	8,846.0	7.0
SALEM	3,477.0	3,271.0	1,116.0	1,062.5	767.5	725.5	12.0	12.0	48.0	44.0	5.0	2.0	187.0	177.0	10,906.5	4,014.5	527.0	205.0	17.0
SOMERSET	12,782.5	12,058.5	2,675.0	2,406.0	5,388.5	5,028.0	25.0	30.0	5,639.5	5,339.0	92.0	69.0	515.0	448.0	52,496.0	9,029.0	1,965.0	2,041.0	.0
SUSSEX	8,975.5	8,535.0	280.5	225.0	921.0	840.0	12.0	8.0	247.0	210.0	20.0	18.0	117.0	103.0	20,512.0	2,557.5	840.0	116.0	4.0
UNION	16,068.5	15,202.5	9,959.5	9,533.5	18,807.0	17,747.5	33.0	31.0	2,451.0	2,280.0	101.0	96.0	619.0	582.0	93,511.5	37,678.5	5,870.5	9,458.0	8.0
WARREN	6,340.0	5,986.0	572.0	548.0	1,102.5	1,045.0	7.0	7.0	225.0	251.0	7.0	9.0	178.0	166.0	16,443.5	3,747.5	716.0	293.0	7.0
CHARTERS	1,873.0	1,782.0	11,843.0	13,084.5	7,245.5	7,982.0	50.0	34.0	1,138.0	1,131.0	35.0	33.0	197.0	223.0	46,651.0	28,487.5	4,076.5	1,245.0	33.0
State Total	321,374.0	300,985.5	108,469.5	104,645.0	190,821.0	181,836.0	883.0	843.0	70,099.0	66,367.0	1,561.0	1,472.0	12,156.5	11,754.5	1,373,267.0	455,298.5	66,277.0	72,257.0	455.0

Health Reports

Compare Counties in New Jersey

FIPS	State	County	Health Outcomes		Health Factors	
			Z-Score	Rank	Z-Score	Rank
34000	New Jersey					
34001	New Jersey	Atlantic	0.81	17	0.64	18
34007	New Jersey	Camden	0.93	18	0.52	15
34009	New Jersey	Cape May	0.48	16	0.26	14
34011	New Jersey	Cumberland	1.49	21	1.28	21
34015	New Jersey	Gloucester	0.41	14	0.14	13
34021	New Jersey	Mercer	0.19	12	-0.28	8
34033	New Jersey	Salem	0.95	19	0.82	20

County	Children in poverty					Income inequality			
	% Children in Poverty	Z-Score	% Children in Poverty - Black	% Children in Poverty - Hispanic	% Children in Poverty - White	80th Percentile Income	20th Percentile Income	Income Ratio	Z-Score
	16					144470	28149	5.1	
Atlantic	22	0.95	36	35	10	110254	22404	4.9	0.14
Camden	20	0.64	33	41	7	122036	23087	5.3	0.66
Cape May	18	0.43	10	37	11	112604	25152	4.5	-0.49
Cumberland	26	1.45	32	37	10	98406	20363	4.8	0.02
Gloucester	10	-0.72	31	23	6	137621	32634	4.2	-0.86
Mercer	15	0.03	32	29	4	151216	28074	5.4	0.81
Salem	19	0.48	35	37	18	117062	24436	4.8	-0.04

Foster Care Data for New Jersey and Philadelphia

		Ages 0-2	Percent	Ages 3-5	Percent	Total Youth Ages 0-5	Percent
Atlantic County		136	30%	91	20%	227	50%
Camden County		175	29%	91	15%	266	44%
Cape May County		56	33%	35	21%	91	54%
Cumberland County		73	28%	50	19%	123	47%
Gloucester County		109	23%	90	19%	199	42%
Mercer County		114	28%	69	17%	183	45%
Salem County		23	27%	19	22%	42	49%
Philadelphia County (Urban)		989	18%	924	17%	1913	35%

New Jersey- Children in CP&P Out-of-Home Placement as of September 30,2016. Data retrieved from New Jersey Department of Children and Families Child Protection and Permanency Quarterly Demographic Summary as of September 30,2016. **"Out-of-home placement" or "placement" means physically locating a child by the Division or with the Division's approval, in any out-of-home setting, including a resource family home, group home, shelter care or a residential facility for temporary treatment or long-term care, and not including placement with the child's birth parent or a parent of a child whose adoption has been finalized.**

Philadelphia- Foster Care-September 30 Snapshot by Age Group. Data retrieved from the Kids Count Data Center. **The number of children of all ages placed out of home on a given day (9/30). Out-of-home placements include family foster homes, group homes, community-based placement, emergency placement, supervised independent living, residential placement, secure detention and secure residential placement.**

