

# 2012 Middlesex County Needs Assessment

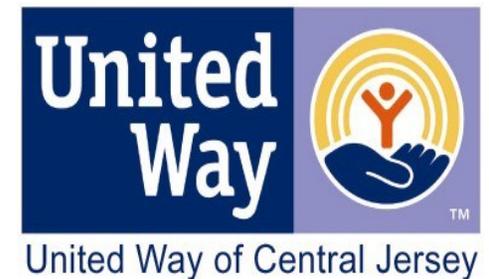
*Prepared for PRAB, Inc.*



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# Introduction

## Project Partners

Funding for the Middlesex County Human Services Needs Assessment was provided by PRAB.

Other partners involved in planning the needs assessment include the Middlesex County Department of Human Services, the Middlesex County Human Services Advisory Council and the United Way of Central Jersey.

## Background

PRAB's over 40 year history of exceptional service to the community began in 1969 with a modest group of Puerto Rican volunteers who organized to provide English classes to recently-arrived immigrants. The organization was incorporated as a private non-profit in October 1971. Over years of growth, the receipt of grant support and merging with other providers, PRAB has grown into a comprehensive human services organization providing services that improve the quality of life for the low and moderate income population of Central Jersey in a bilingual and bicultural setting, while continuing its role as advocates for the Latino community. PRAB services individuals from every background regardless of age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, familial status, sex, sexual orientation or functional impairment. In addition, PRAB serves as the Community Action Agency for Middlesex County West. To provide guidance for this efforts and to support the development of new initiatives, PRAB collaborated with the Institute for Families at Rutgers School of Social Work, the Middlesex County Department of Human Services, the Middlesex County Human Services Advisory Council and the United Way of Central Jersey to conduct a comprehensive countywide needs assessment. This report summarizes findings from these efforts.

## Methodology

The Middlesex County Human Services Needs Assessment included three primary components. First, about 2,000 randomly-selected households were surveyed regarding their human service needs. Second, 133 PRAB clients participated in face-to-face interviews regarding their human service needs. Finally, archival data was analyzed from a variety of national, state and local sources.

# Key Findings

## Demographic Trends

Analysis of population demographics identify two key trends that will affect human services in Middlesex County:

### An Increasingly Diverse Population

The Middlesex County population is becoming more racially and ethnically diverse. In 2010, 58.6% of Middlesex County residents (474,589) were white, compared to 68.5% (513,298) in 2000, about an 8% decrease. The number of African-Americans or Blacks living in Middlesex County increased from 9.1% of the population in 2000 (68,467) to 9.7% of the population in 2010 (78,462). The largest increase by race was among the Asian population. The number of Asians living in Middlesex County increased 66.3% during the past decade, from 104,212 residents in 2000 to 173,293 residents in 2010. Finally, almost 30% of Middlesex County residents were born abroad and over 41% speak a language other than English. The human services community will be challenged to provide an array of culturally-competent programs to meet the needs of this increasingly diverse population.

### Growth of the Hispanic/Latino Population

The Hispanic/Latino population in Middlesex County increased 46.2% between 2000 and 2010, or by 47,035 residents. Research suggests that this population presents several challenges for human service providers (Kersting, 2008). First, the population is at higher risk of being low income and thus often requires a greater array of services. Second, the Hispanic/Latino population may include a percentage of undocumented individuals who may not be eligible for public assistance programs and services and will require assistance from private sources.

## Recommendations:

1. Invest in developing the capacity of human service providers to address the needs of the increasingly diverse Middlesex County population. This may include recruiting and retaining bilingual staff, developing creative outreach programs to ensure all populations are aware of available services, and ensuring the provision of culturally-competent services.
2. Identify, address, and monitor racial and ethnic disparities in education, income, and health in Middlesex County. One population of particular concern is foreign-born, non-citizens.

# Key Findings

## Recommendations:

1. Expand access to affordable, quality early care and education programs (including non-traditional hours) that meet the needs of working parents and their children.
2. Develop dual-purpose before/after-school and summer programs that provide quality care and offer educational and recreational enrichment for youth (particularly in poor-performing school districts).
3. Develop prevention programs to increase high school graduation rates in communities such as Carteret, New Brunswick

## Education Trends

Three trends emerge from analysis of educational data:

### Need for Affordable, Quality Early Care and Education Programs

Almost 60% of Middlesex County children ages birth to five are in child care while their parents are at work. Subsidized slots for low-income families are particularly needed. Currently, more than 611 subsidy-eligible children are waiting for care. Relatedly, the cost of child care (particularly infant care), presents a significant burden for many working families. A single parent working full-time (40 hours per week) at a minimum wage job would pay between 58% and 68% of their pre-tax wages for infant care.

### Need for Affordable, Quality Before-/After-School and Summer Programs

More than 88,000 school-aged children may require before/after-school care or summer programs while their parents are at work. In addition to providing safe care for children and peace of mind for working parents, such programs can also offer tutoring, homework assistance, recreational activities, and opportunities for mentorship, particularly for at-risk children in low-income communities.

### Educational Disparities: Poor Performing Schools

This analysis identified significant educational disparities among children in Middlesex County. While some school districts consistently perform above state averages, students in several districts show significant lags in school achievement. Particularly troubling are low graduation rates in some urban communities.

# Key Findings

## Income Trends

Two trends emerge from analysis of income and poverty data:

### Economic Downturns + High Cost of Living = Stressed Families

Continued high unemployment, stagnant incomes and the high cost of living are contributing to sky-rocketing levels of stress among Middlesex County families. Between 2000 and 2010, inflation outpaced increases in median household income in Middlesex County, resulting in a declining standard of living for many families. The median value of owner-occupied housing units increased 112% during the same period.

### Need for Affordable Housing

In addition to the high cost of owner-occupied housing, renters in Middlesex County also face high housing costs. The number of cost-burdened renters (defined as those who spend more than 30% of their income on rental expenses) jumped from 38,267 in 2005 to 39,838 in 2009, a 5% increase. The low vacancy rate across municipalities — generally in the range of 5% — also contributes to high housing costs.

## Recommendations:

1. Focus on providing informal, convenient supports to families that are struggling with economic issues beyond their control. Services should focus on providing links to a variety of services, including job training and employment.
2. Develop innovative services to support working poor families—including affordable child care, before/after school care, food programs, emergency financial assistance and help with co-payments and medications.

# Key Findings

## Recommendations:

1. Help pregnant women access early and consistent prenatal care to improve birth outcomes, particularly in communities such as New Brunswick, Perth Amboy and Carteret.
2. In addition to addressing high family stress levels, parenting education programs may benefit children in some Middlesex County communities including South Amboy, New Brunswick and Jamesburg.

## Health Trends

Two trends emerge from analysis of health data for Middlesex County:

### Disparities in Prenatal Care and Birth Outcomes

Disparities in prenatal care and birth outcomes are evident across Middlesex County municipalities. While more than 90% of expectant mothers received adequate prenatal care in some communities, the rates drop precipitously in communities such as New Brunswick (64.2%), Perth Amboy (55.7%) and Carteret (66.6%).

### Protecting Children

Elevated rates of child maltreatment reports in some communities suggest a need for parenting education (and may reflect broader economic distress). Maltreatment report rates in South Amboy (87.4 per 1,000), New Brunswick (85.1 per 1,000) and Jamesburg (71.5 per 1,000) suggest target communities.

# Key Findings

## Middlesex County 2020

Planning participants identified several key strategies to addressing the human service needs of Middlesex County residents:

1. Making it easier to access services: Suggestions include using technology to provide information about services and resources that are available in the community; establishing a single-point of entry for services; providing neighborhood-based services; extending service hours to accommodate a variety of work and family schedules; and reducing stigma associated with needing help for individual and family problems.
2. Increasing collaboration: Developing an integrated human services database to share information about specific clients; developing a single application for services; facilitating cross-sector conversations about needs; increased involvement of private sector and schools.
3. Addressing issues related to community diversity: offering services related to immigration status; developing a safety net that would ensure the basic needs of people are met regardless of their immigration status; ensuring the capacity of health and human service agencies to provide culturally-competent services.
4. Providing coordinated, intensive services for high-risk populations: directed toward most challenging populations including the chronically homeless, substance abusers, people with mental health issues or other disabilities, frail seniors, fragile families, and individuals with co-occurring issues.
5. Expanding prevention programs: Focus on enhancing positive youth development for children and teens; programs that help people stay in their homes and health-focused prevention programs

*Middlesex County 2020: Creating a Collective Vision for Our Community was a human services planning initiative undertaken by the Middlesex County Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) in Fall 2010. The HSAC is the comprehensive human services planning body for Middlesex County. The volunteer-led group works closely with both State and County governments, making recommendations for the allocation of funds, monitoring programs, and advocating on behalf of the County's most vulnerable residents. The goals of Middlesex County 2020 included (1) establishing a comprehensive human services agenda and (2) setting priorities and action items to ensure the quality of life for residents over the next decade.*

## Recommendations:

1. Establish a work group to consider issues relating to technology, including creation of a website to provide information about human services, and to evaluate the potential for creating an integrated human services database.
2. Establish a work group to explore issues and make recommendations regarding the creation of a single-point of entry for services and the expansion of neighborhood-based services.
3. Develop a model for “super case management” for high-risk, high-need populations.
4. Explore funding opportunities to support technology advancements and new models of service.

# Key Findings

## Overview

The Middlesex County Human Services Needs Assessment Resident Survey was mailed to 2,132 randomly-selected households in Middlesex County during Summer 2012. Excluding the 201 surveys that were returned because they were undeliverable, the final mail survey sample included 1,931 households randomly-selected to represent the county's 25 individual municipalities. Completed responses were received from 770 households for a 40% response rate.

In addition, 132 surveys were completed by county residents receiving services at PRAB, a multi-service agency serving Middlesex County.

## Middlesex County Resident Survey

The 902 Middlesex County residents who completed the needs assessment survey identified money and making ends meet, affording health care, jobs, health issues and basic needs as the critical needs facing their households.

Specific needs include being able to afford dental and medical care, prescription and over-the counter medications; having enough money for food, rent or housing, utility bills, clothing and transportation; and support dealing with stress related to caregiving responsibilities.

Top barriers to receiving needed services focused on not having information about the services that are available and their eligibility requirements;

### Top Community Needs

- Money / making ends meet
- Affording Health Care
- Jobs
- Health Issues
- Basic Needs
- Caregiving Stress

### Top Barriers to Service

- Not enough information about services
- Eligibility criteria
- Waiting time
- Paperwork
- Having to provide same information too many times

the frustrations associated with waiting time and paperwork; and the need to provide the same information too many times. These findings suggest that despite efforts to incorporate new communication technology into publicizing services, potential consumers still remain unaware of available services.

# Resident Survey

## Middlesex County Resident Survey

Municipality	Census	Respondents
Carteret	2.9%	2.4%
Cranbury	.5%	.5%
Dunellen	.9%	.7%
East Brunswick	6.0%	7.1%
Edison	12.7%	10.0%
Helmetta	.3%	.2%
Highland Park	1.8%	1.2%
Jamesburg	.8%	.6%
Metuchen	1.7%	1.3%
Middlesex	1.7%	8.3%*
Milltown	.9%	.9%
Monroe	4.6%	5.2%
New Brunswick	6.4%	7.1%
North Brunswick	5.0%	5.3%
Old Bridge	8.3%	7.4%
Perth Amboy	6.2%	4.1%
Piscataway	6.7%	6.0%
Plainsboro	2.7%	3.7%
Sayreville	5.4%	5.3%
South Amboy	1.0%	.9%
South Brunswick	5.2%	6.5%
South Plainfield	2.9%	2.4%
South River	2.0%	2.8%
Spotswood	1.0%	.9%
Woodbridge	12.5%	8.9%
Missing	NA	4.6%

## Respondents

As indicated in the table to the left, respondents very closely reflected the geographic diversity of Middlesex County. As a percentage of the entire county population, residents of East Brunswick, Plainsboro, and South Brunswick were slightly over-represented in the sample. Similarly, residents of Edison, Perth Amboy and Woodbridge were slightly under-

*(\*Note: The number of respondents who indicated that they lived in the municipality of Middlesex exceeded the number included in the sample. It appears likely that some respondents confused the municipality of Middlesex and the county of Middlesex when answering this question. Because the survey was conducted anonymously, the research team was not able to address this apparent error. Because data will be not be presented at the municipality-level, the decision was made to use the answers as provided rather than to exclude them from analysis.*

# Resident Survey

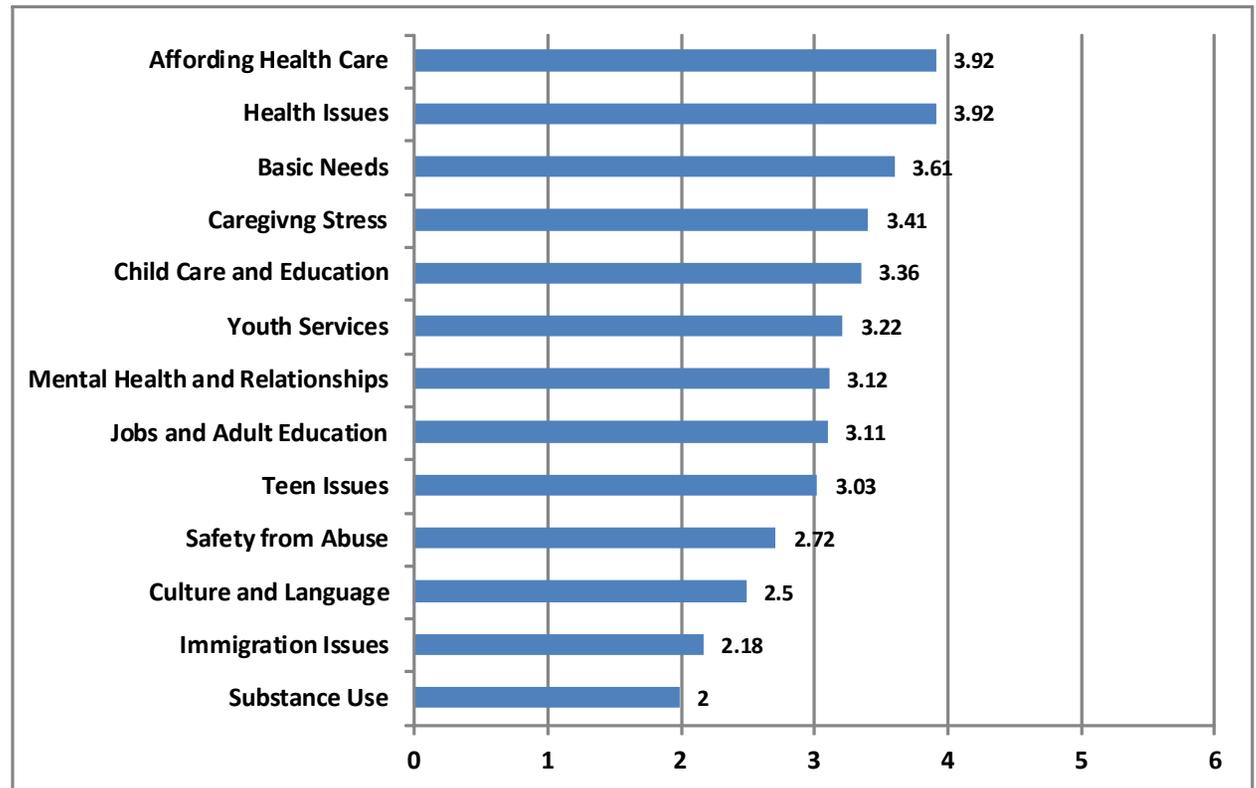
## Measuring Need

The Middlesex County Needs Assessment Survey included 65 questions assessing the human service needs of community members. For 63 of these questions, respondents were required to indicate the extent to which they disagreed (rated as 1) or agreed (rated as 6) with statements about the needs of their household.

A typical statement was: Someone in my household experiences problems with caring for an adult or elderly person. Higher scores indicate greater household problems or needs in each area.

To simplify analysis, the 63 questions were reduced to 13 subscales (Jobs, job skills and adult education; safety from abuse; caregiving; child care and education; teen issues; youth services; immigration; health issues; affording health care; culture and language; mental health and relationships; substance use; and basic needs).

## Middlesex County Resident Survey — Resident Needs

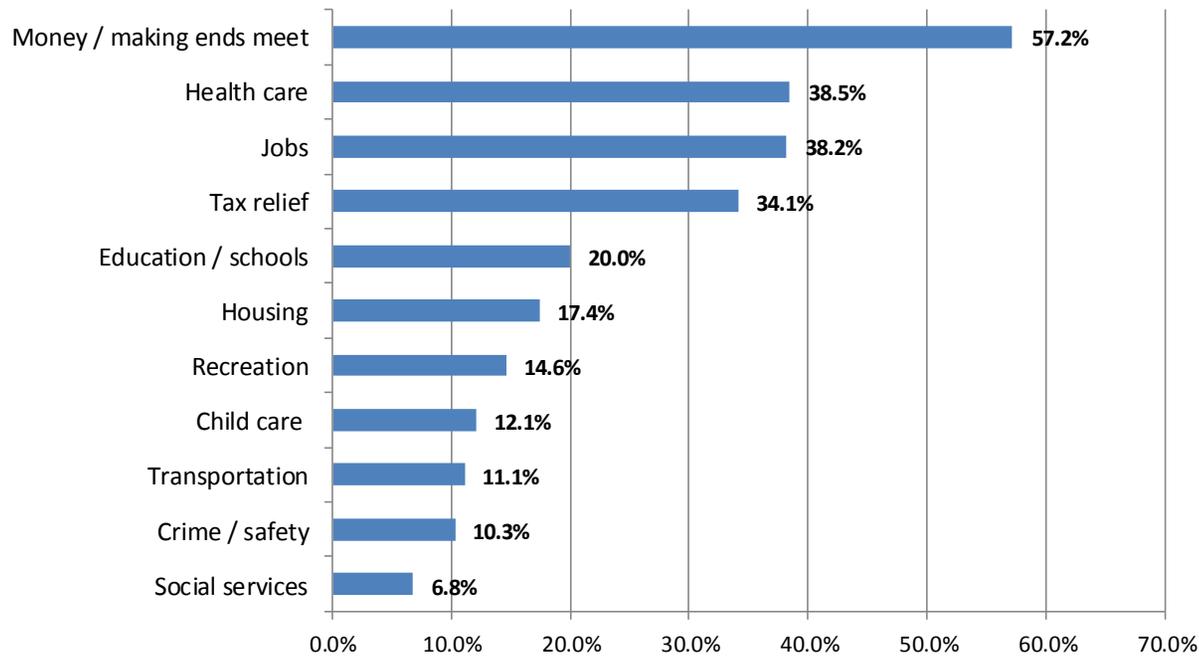


As indicated in the chart above, respondents reported that their greatest needs were affording health care and dealing with other health-related issues. Affording health care included being able to afford dental and medical care, prescription and over-the-counter medications, and health insurance. Health issues included getting treatment for HIV/AIDS, needing home health services, getting prenatal care, being tested for HIV, being overweight and knowing how to stay healthy. The third greatest need reported by respondents was for basic needs, including having enough money for food, rent or housing, utility bills, clothing, and transportation. The fourth area of greatest need reported by residents was for assistance with stress related to caregiving responsibilities including caring for a person with special needs and being a good parent.

# Resident Survey

## Middlesex County Resident Survey

### Top Household Needs



### Measuring Need

Respondents were also asked to indicate the three most important needs facing their household today.

Almost 60% of respondents indicated that money or making ends meet was one of the top three needs facing their household at the time they completed the survey. Almost 40% of respondents reported that health care was a primary household need. Jobs were cited as a top household need by 38.2% of respondents.

Social services, crime/safety, and transportation were the household needs least often cited as primary needs by respondents.

# Resident Survey

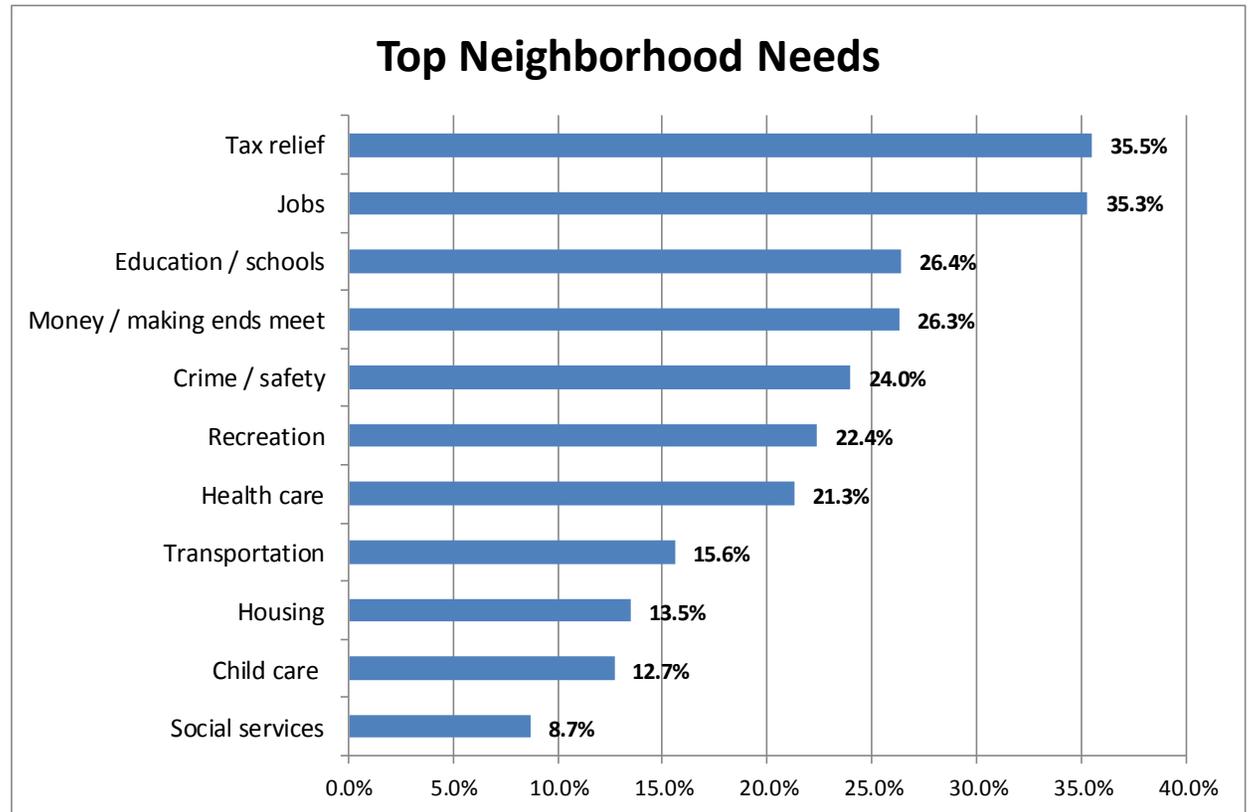
## Measuring Need

Respondents were also asked to indicate the three most important needs facing their neighborhood today.

Almost 36% of respondents indicated that tax relief was one of the top three needs facing their neighborhood at the time they completed the survey. Just over 35% of respondents reported that jobs were one of the top three needs facing their neighborhood. Education/schools and money/making ends meet were cited as top neighborhood needs by 26.4% and 26.3% of respondents, respectively.

Social services, child care and housing were the neighborhood needs least often cited as primary needs by respondents.

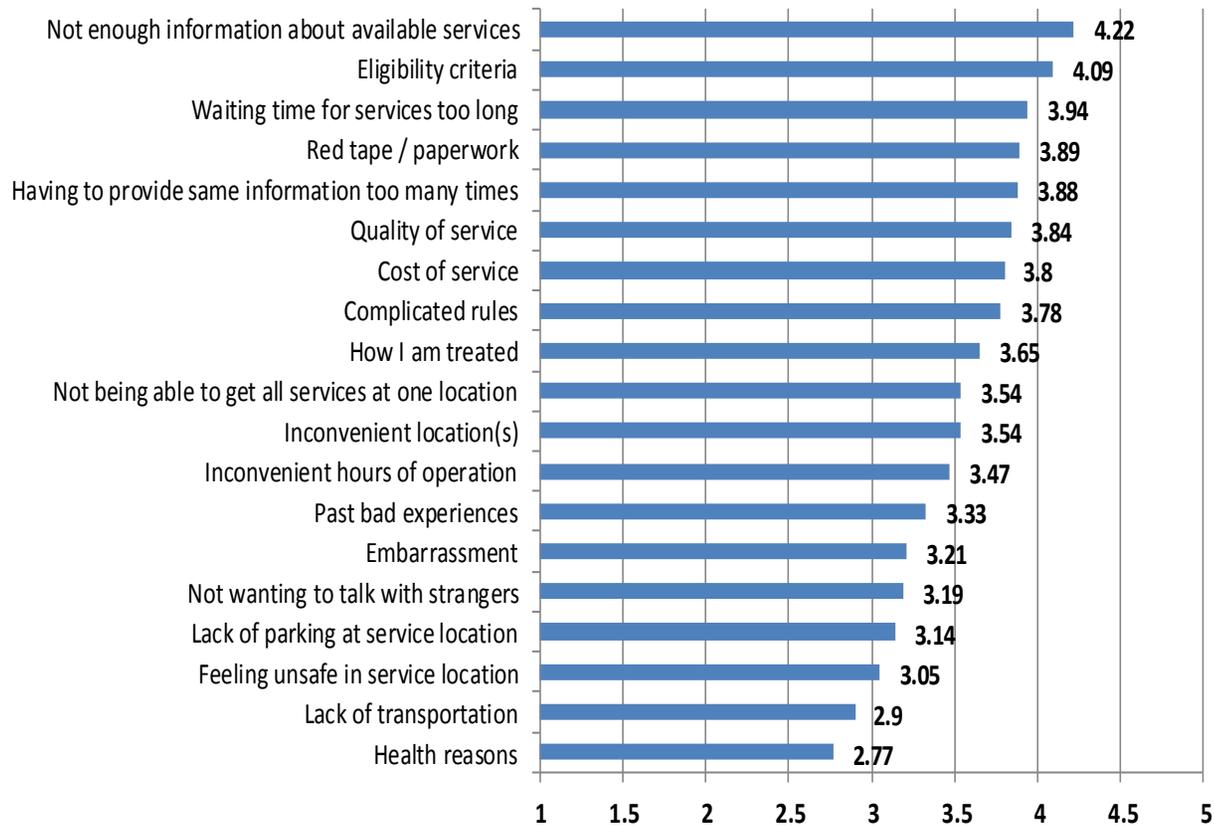
## Middlesex County Resident Survey — Resident Needs



# Resident Survey

## Middlesex County Resident Survey

### Service Barriers



### Identifying Service Barriers

The Middlesex County Needs Assessment Survey included 19 questions assessing barriers to receiving needed services. Respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they disagreed (rated as 1) or agreed (rated as 6) with statements about potential service barriers. A typical statement was: A barrier to receiving services that my household needs would be lack of parking at the service location.

As indicated, not having enough information about available services was the reason most common barrier to receiving needed services that was reported by respondents. Other common barriers included eligibility requirements, having to wait too long for services, red tape or paperwork, and having to provide the same information too many times. Health reasons and lack of transportation were the least frequently cited barriers to receiving services among respondents.

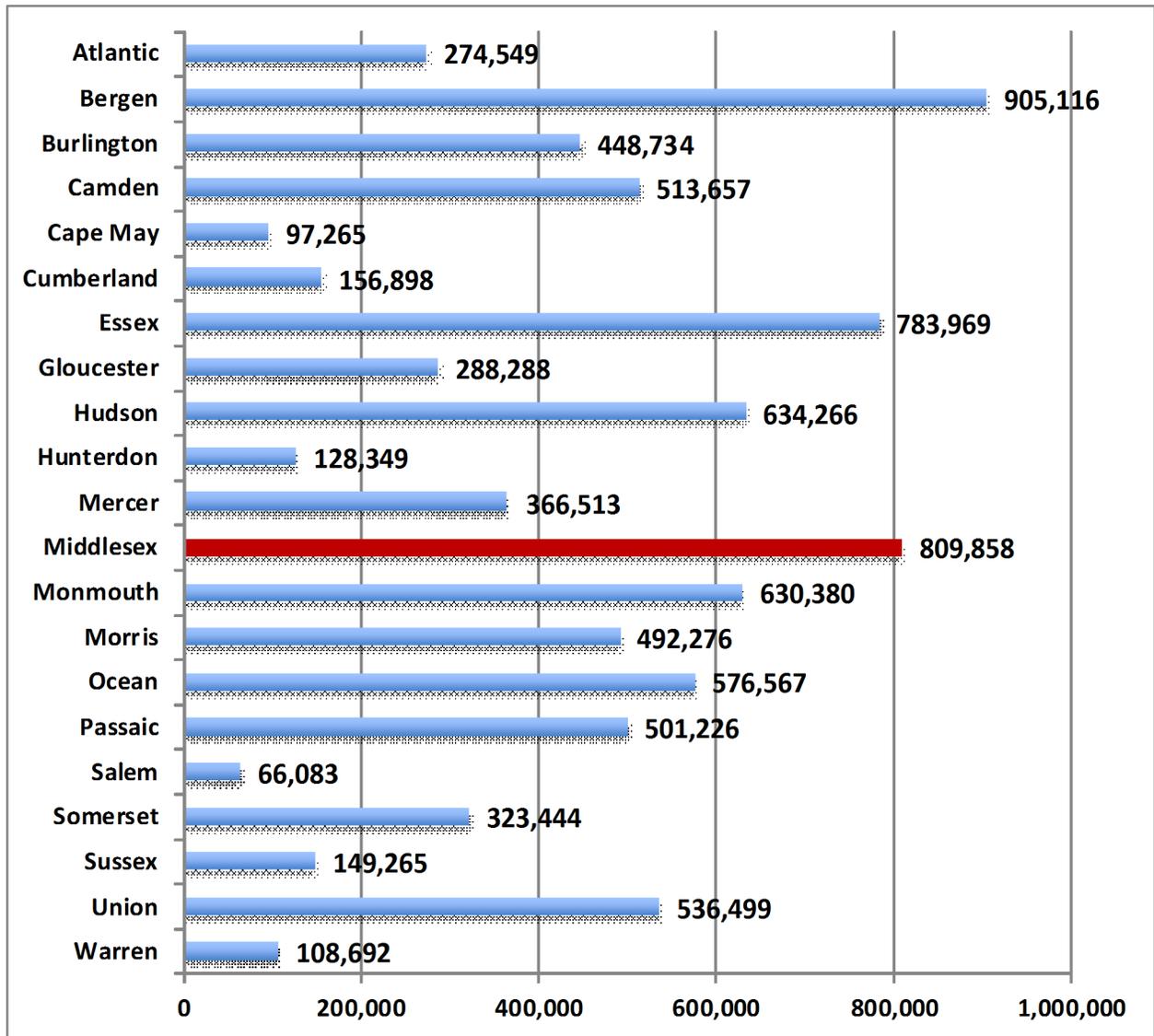
# Population Demographics

## Main Points:

1. Middlesex County is the 2nd most populated county in New Jersey.
2. It accounts for slightly more than 9% of the state's population.
3. Middlesex County's population increased from 750,162 in 2000 to 809,858 in 2010, an 8% increase.
4. The total population in Middlesex County grew more rapidly than the total population in New Jersey, which increased 4.5% between 2000 and 2010.

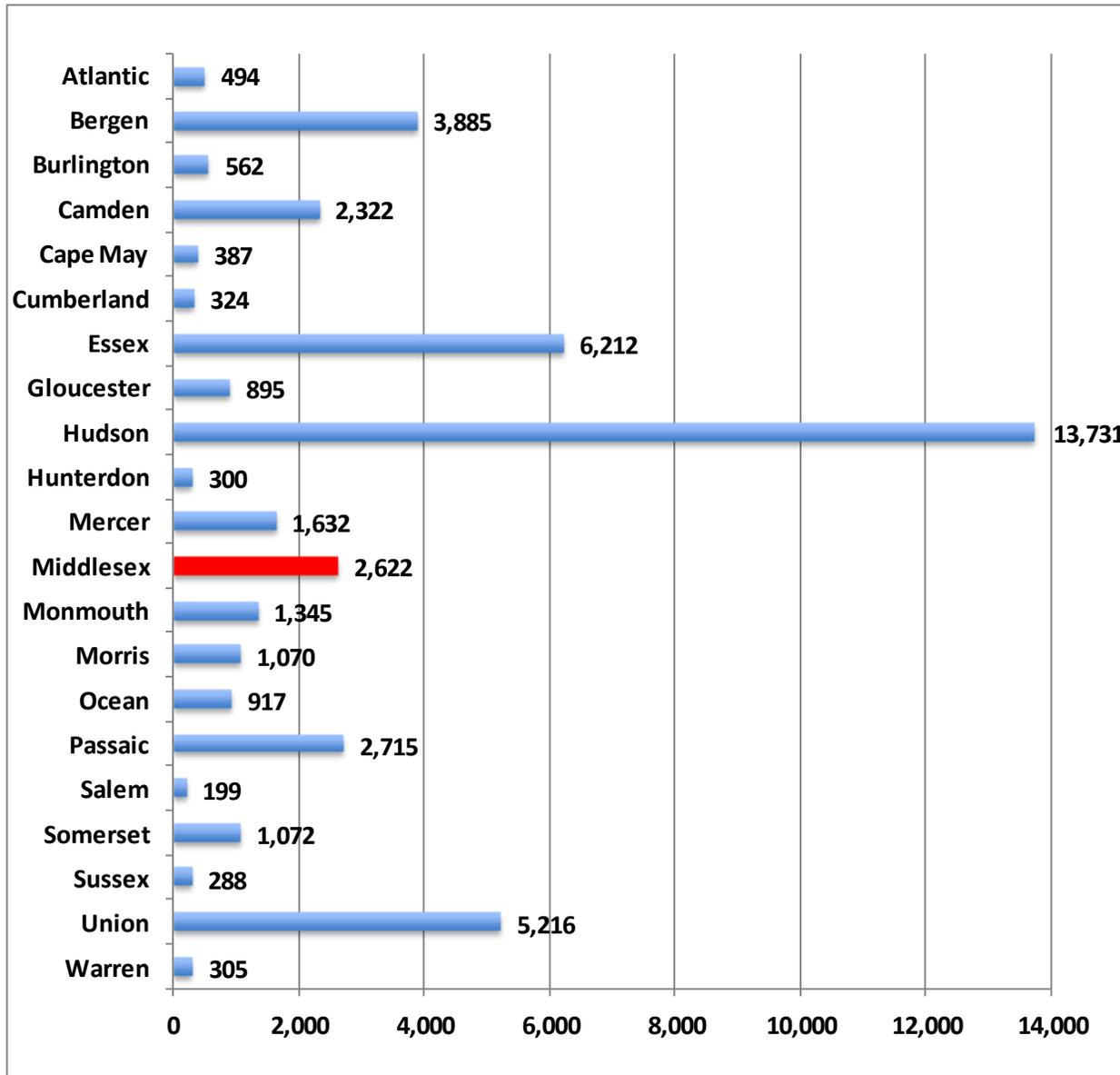
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## New Jersey Population by County, 2010



# Population Demographics

## New Jersey Population Density by County, 2010



### Main Points:

1. Middlesex County is the sixth most densely-populated county in New Jersey with 2,622 people per square mile in 2010.
2. Middlesex County's population density is more than double the state average, 1,195.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

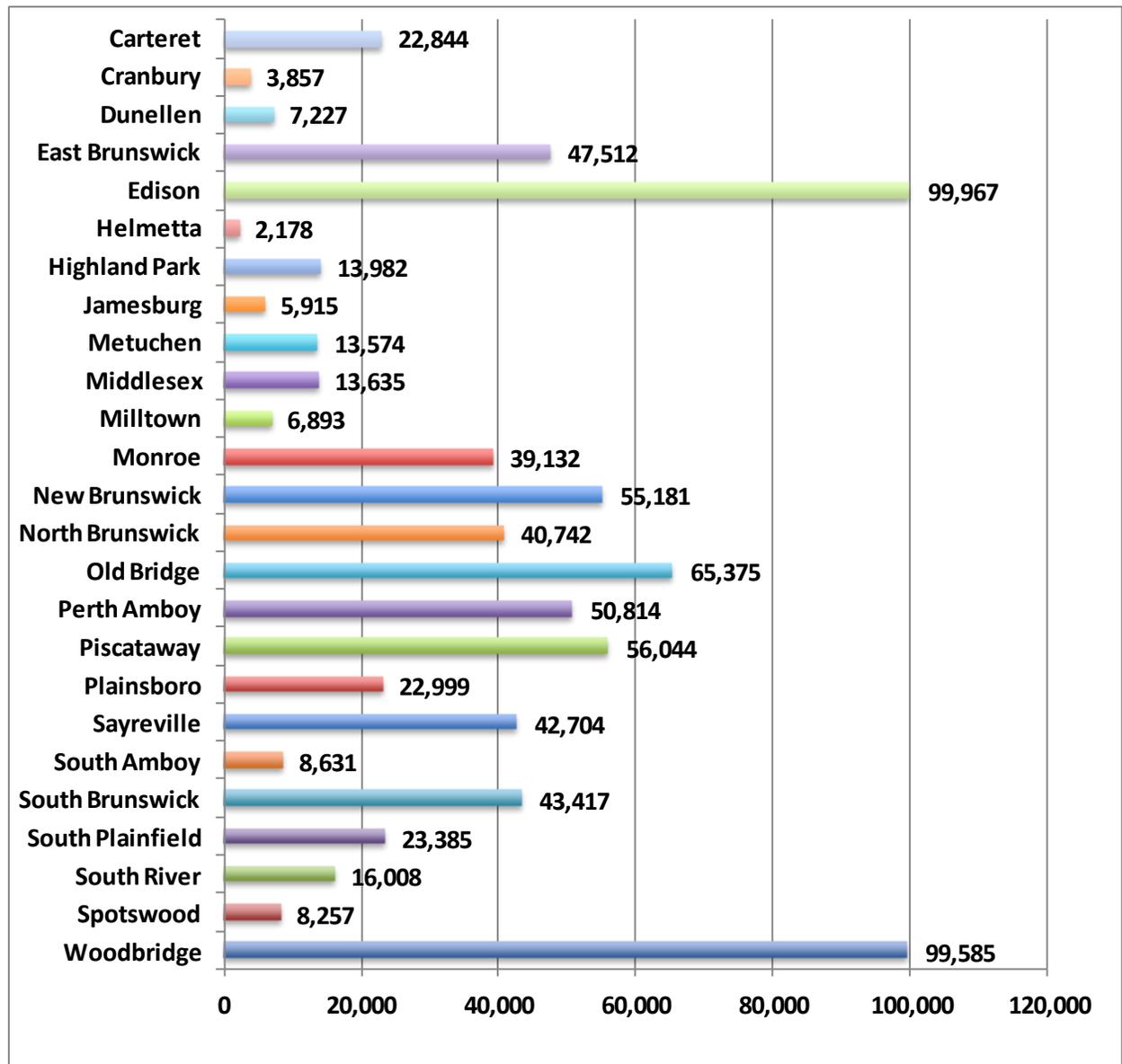
# Population Demographics

## Main Points:

1. Middlesex County includes 25 municipalities covering almost 309 square miles.
2. Edison, with 99,967 residents, and Woodbridge, with 99,585 residents, are the most populated municipalities in Middlesex County, followed by Old Bridge (pop. 65,374), Piscataway (pop. 56,044) and New Brunswick (pop. 55,181).
3. Seven municipalities (Cranbury, Dunellen, Helmetta, Jamesburg, Milltown, South Amboy and Spotswood) have fewer than 10,000 residents.

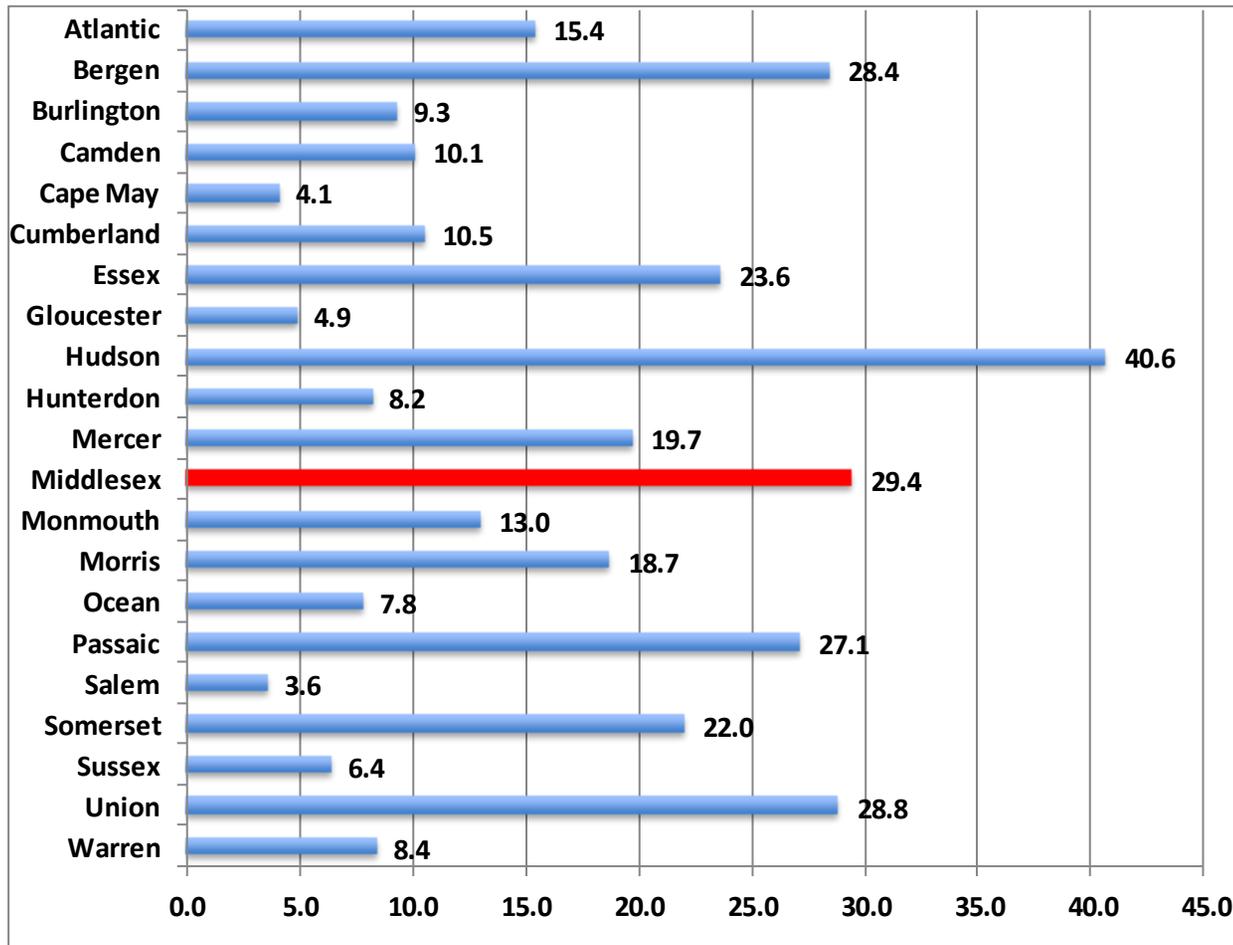
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Middlesex County Population by Municipality, 2010



# Population Demographics

## Foreign Born Persons by County, 2010



Given the high percentage of Middlesex County residents who were born outside of the United States, additional analyses were conducted (See Pages 19-22) to examine differences between the native born and foreign born populations. Due to data limitations, this analysis focused on eleven municipalities including East Brunswick, Edison, New Brunswick, North Brunswick, Old Bridge, Perth Amboy, Piscataway, Plainsboro, Sayreville, South Brunswick and Woodbridge.

### Main Points:

1. Almost 30% of people residing in Middlesex County in 2010 were born outside of the United States.
2. Among the state's 21 counties, Middlesex County has the second highest percentage of foreign-born residents.
3. The percentage of foreign born persons in Middlesex County (29.4%) exceeds the percentage of foreign born persons in New Jersey (20.3%).

# Population Demographics

## Main Points:

1. With the exception of Perth Amboy, foreign-born households had higher median incomes than native-born households in these municipalities.
2. Within foreign-born households, naturalized households typically had higher median incomes than non-citizen households (with exceptions being New Brunswick, North Brunswick, Piscataway and Woodbridge).
3. Native born households have fewer members than foreign-born households.

## Native Born-Foreign Born, Median Household Income

	Total	Native Born	Foreign Born	Foreign Born Naturalized	Foreign Born Not a Citizen
East Brunswick	\$100,655	\$95,234	\$108,000	\$109,784	\$102,026
Edison	\$86,725	\$73,685	\$100,718	\$101,328	\$98,185
New Brunswick	\$44,543	\$42,457	\$47,715	\$41,748	\$49,108
North Brunswick	\$78,469	\$75,355	\$87,296	\$79,635	\$96,368
Old Bridge	\$82,640	\$81,916	\$86,896	\$97,927	\$57,821
Perth Amboy	\$47,696	\$49,366	\$46,233	\$53,778	\$37,486
Piscataway	\$88,428	\$83,077	\$97,449	\$96,692	\$100,156
Plainsboro	\$86,986	\$77,215	\$100,148	\$124,900	\$85,448
Sayreville	\$71,808	\$70,768	\$78,121	\$82,480	\$62,821
South Brunswick	\$100,950	\$89,173	\$123,194	\$124,992	\$110,993
Woodbridge	\$79,277	\$72,910	\$90,396	\$89,805	\$90,734

## Native Born-Foreign Born, Average Household Size

	Total	Native Born	Foreign Born	Foreign Born Naturalized	Foreign Born Not a Citizen
East Brunswick	2.88	2.67	3.31	3.26	3.44
Edison	2.84	2.42	3.33	3.35	3.29
New Brunswick	3.23	2.43	4.11	3.18	4.48
North Brunswick	2.73	2.44	3.37	3.32	3.45
Old Bridge	2.77	2.45	3.25	3.26	3.22
Perth Amboy	3.03	2.46	3.51	3.59	3.45
Piscataway	2.84	2.47	3.27	3.41	3.05
Plainsboro	2.43	2.48	2.82	3.09	2.60
Sayreville	2.67	2.49	2.93	2.90	2.98
South Brunswick	2.89	2.50	3.44	3.43	3.45
Woodbridge	2.77	2.51	3.33	3.43	3.21

# Population Demographics

## Native Born-Foreign Born, Below 200% Poverty Level

	Total	Native Born	Foreign Born	Foreign Born Naturalized	Foreign Born Not a Citizen
East Brunswick	9.2%	8.4%	11.2%	9.4%	14.5%
Edison	14.4%	16.1%	11.8%	9.2%	14.2%
New Brunswick	56.5%	56.1%	57.2%	52.4%	58.2%
North Brunswick	19.2%	18.6%	20.4%	19.3%	21.6%
Old Bridge	13.5%	12.1%	18.0%	11.5%	28.9%
Perth Amboy	41.2%	39.3%	44.3%	34.7%	49.7%
Piscataway	11.5%	11.0%	12.6%	9.1%	16.4%
Plainsboro	8.5%	9.1%	7.7%	5.0%	9.5%
Sayreville	17.3%	17.3%	17.5%	15.3%	20.0%
South Brunswick	10.8%	10.8%	10.8%	7.7%	14.6%
Woodbridge	13.3%	14.2%	11.3%	8.5%	14.1%

## Native Born-Foreign Born, No Access to Motor Vehicle

	Total	Native Born	Foreign Born	Foreign Born Naturalized	Foreign Born Not a Citizen
East Brunswick	3.8%	3.3%	4.8%	4.3%	5.9%
Edison	5.9%	6.8%	4.8%	2.2%	7.9%
New Brunswick	28.2%	18.4%	40.7%	24.6%	47.2%
North Brunswick	7.6%	6.7%	8.9%	8.7%	9.2%
Old Bridge	5.0%	4.8%	5.6%	5.2%	6.6%
Perth Amboy	23.9%	21.0%	27.7%	17.6%	35.6%
Piscataway	4.1%	3.6%	4.8%	2.8%	7.9%
Plainsboro	5.0%	4.9%	5.1%	3.3%	6.5%
Sayreville	6.8%	6.4%	7.8%	8.5%	6.7%
South Brunswick	3.2%	2.6%	4.0%	4.0%	4.1%
Woodbridge	7.5%	7.8%	6.8%	6.5%	7.2%

### Main Points:

1. Foreign-born households are more likely than native-born households to have incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level (with the exceptions of Edison, Plainsboro and Woodbridge).
2. Difference between foreign-born, naturalized and foreign-born, non-citizen households is even more pronounced. The percentage of foreign-born, non-citizen households living below 200% of the federal poverty level ranged between 2.3% and 17.4% higher than for foreign-born, naturalized households.
3. With the exceptions of Edison and Woodbridge, foreign-born households were less likely to have access to a motor vehicle than native born households. Foreign-born, non-citizen households were the most likely not to have access to a vehicle.

# Population Demographics

## Main Points:

1. The percentage of households speaking a language other than English at home ranged from 11.2% to 61.5% for native born residents and 83.9% to 94.5% for foreign born residents.
2. Foreign-born, non-citizen households were most likely to speak a language other than English at home (ranging from 85.7% in Piscataway to 96.4% in Perth Amboy).
3. Linguistically-isolated households are those in which all members ages 14 and older have at least some difficulty with English. While rates of linguistic isolation are expectedly low in native born households, they range from 14.2% to 49.2% in foreign-born households and peak between 16.6% and 58.9% in foreign-born, non-citizen households.

## Native Born-Foreign Born, Language Other than English at Home

	Total	Native Born	Foreign Born	Foreign Born Naturalized	Foreign Born Not a Citizen
East Brunswick	37.4%	14.8%	89.1%	86.0%	94.9%
Edison	47.8%	17.4%	90.6%	88.0%	93.1%
New Brunswick	52.5%	26.9%	92.8%	76.6%	96.3%
North Brunswick	42.8%	17.0%	86.4%	82.6%	90.4%
Old Bridge	30.3%	12.6%	87.0%	86.4%	88.0%
Perth Amboy	74.5%	61.5%	94.5%	91.1%	96.4%
Piscataway	37.3%	13.6%	83.9%	82.2%	85.7%
Plainsboro	46.4%	16.3%	88.6%	82.8%	92.8%
Sayreville	31.4%	11.2%	87.0%	83.1%	91.9%
South Brunswick	38.9%	14.3%	88.0%	85.2%	91.5%
Woodbridge	37.5%	16.3%	88.2%	85.6%	90.9%

## Native Born-Foreign Born, Linguistically Isolated

	Total	Native Born	Foreign Born	Foreign Born Naturalized	Foreign Born Not a Citizen
East Brunswick	5.9%	0.5%	16.7%	15.2%	20.3%
Edison	11.0%	1.1%	22.3%	20.0%	25.1%
New Brunswick	23.5%	3.5%	49.2%	24.9%	58.9%
North Brunswick	6.2%	0.4%	15.1%	14.2%	16.6%
Old Bridge	5.7%	1.0%	19.5%	16.1%	28.2%
Perth Amboy	25.0%	11.8%	42.1%	31.1%	50.7%
Piscataway	8.6%	0.3%	21.1%	15.2%	29.9%
Plainsboro	8.0%	0.6%	16.9%	8.1%	24.1%
Sayreville	8.5%	0.8%	26.9%	20.5%	38.0%
South Brunswick	5.8%	0.7%	14.2%	10.7%	19.7%
Woodbridge	5.7%	1.1%	15.4%	13.0%	18.3%

# Population Demographics

## Native Born-Foreign Born, Less Than High School Graduate

	Total	Native Born	Foreign Born	Foreign Born Naturalized	Foreign Born Not a Citizen
East Brunswick	5.9%	5.1%	7.3%	5.8%	10.7%
Edison	8.6%	7.7%	9.6%	8.7%	10.6%
New Brunswick	33.9%	17.3%	46.2%	21.6%	52.3%
North Brunswick	10.4%	7.2%	14.5%	11.9%	17.5%
Old Bridge	9.5%	8.5%	12.1%	11.2%	14.0%
Perth Amboy	33.0%	27.4%	39.3%	29.6%	45.9%
Piscataway	7.1%	6.0%	8.4%	8.2%	8.7%
Plainsboro	3.5%	3.4%	3.5%	2.3%	4.6%
Sayreville	10.2%	7.6%	15.6%	16.1%	15.1%
South Brunswick	5.4%	4.0%	7.5%	7.3%	7.8%
Woodbridge	12.3%	10.9%	14.8%	16.5%	12.9%

## Native Born-Foreign Born, Graduate or Professional Degree

	Total	Native Born	Foreign Born	Foreign Born Naturalized	Foreign Born Not a Citizen
East Brunswick	22.9%	19.4%	28.8%	30.8%	24.4%
Edison	21.8%	12.1%	31.9%	29.9%	34.1%
New Brunswick	9.0%	12.3%	6.6%	9.7%	5.8%
North Brunswick	17.4%	12.2%	24.1%	22.8%	25.7%
Old Bridge	10.8%	8.6%	16.3%	17.3%	14.4%
Perth Amboy	3.7%	4.6%	2.7%	3.1%	2.4%
Piscataway	17.1%	11.6%	23.9%	18.4%	31.1%
Plainsboro	34.5%	25.8%	43.4%	41.9%	44.6%
Sayreville	10.4%	7.2%	17.2%	12.5%	24.0%
South Brunswick	24.9%	18.0%	34.6%	35.2%	33.7%
Woodbridge	10.4%	6.2%	18.3%	10.9%	26.7%

### Main Points:

1. Foreign-born residents (ages 25 and over) are more likely not to have a high school degree than native-born residents.
2. Among the foreign-born population, non-citizens are more likely than naturalized residents to have less than a high school education.
3. Foreign-born residents (ages 25 and over) are more likely to hold a graduate or professional degree than native-born residents.
4. In many municipalities, large percentage of both the foreign-born naturalized and foreign-born, non-citizens hold graduate or professional degrees.

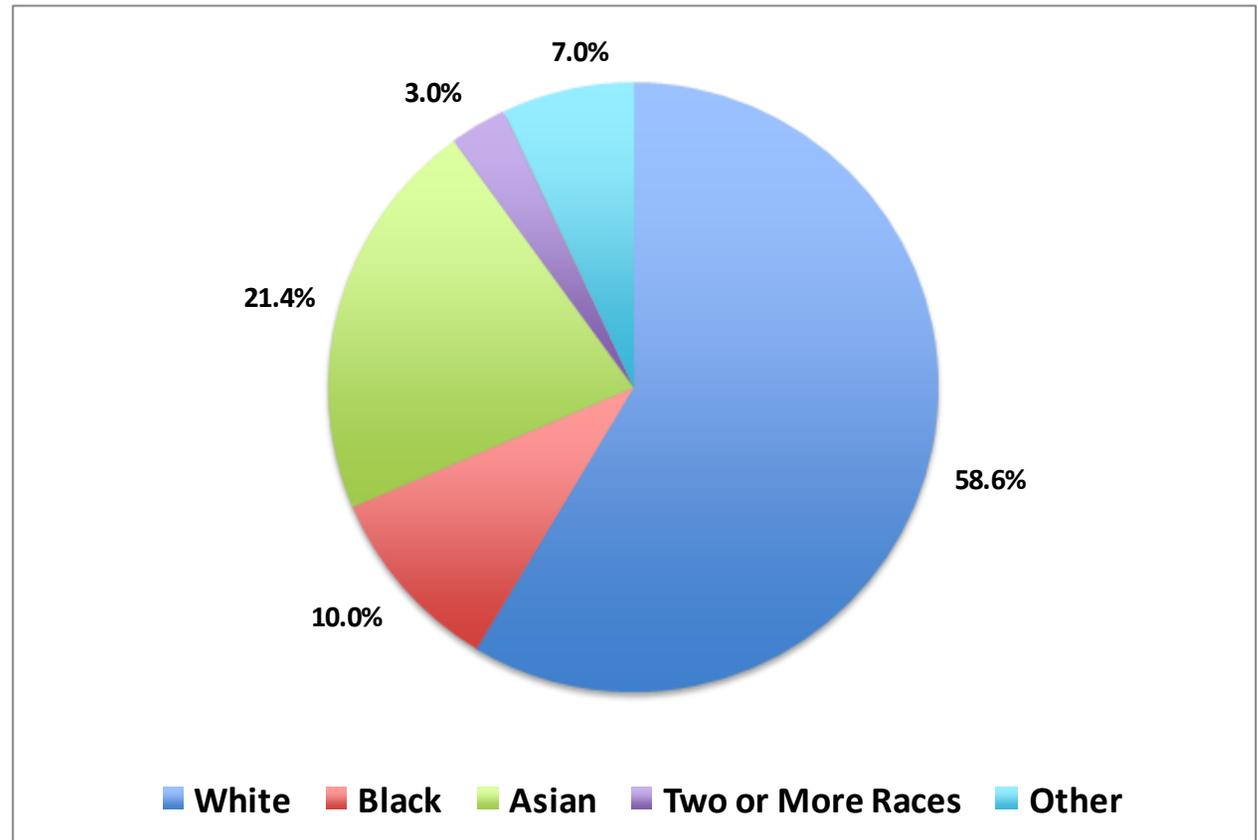
# Population Demographics

## Main Points:

1. The majority of Middlesex County residents are white (58.6%).
2. About 10% of Middlesex County residents are Black and more than 21% are Asian.
3. Compared to the state as a whole, Middlesex County is more racially diverse with a smaller percentage of White residents (58.6% compared to 68.6% in NJ) and a significantly larger percentage of Asian residents (21.4% compared to 8.3% in NJ).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

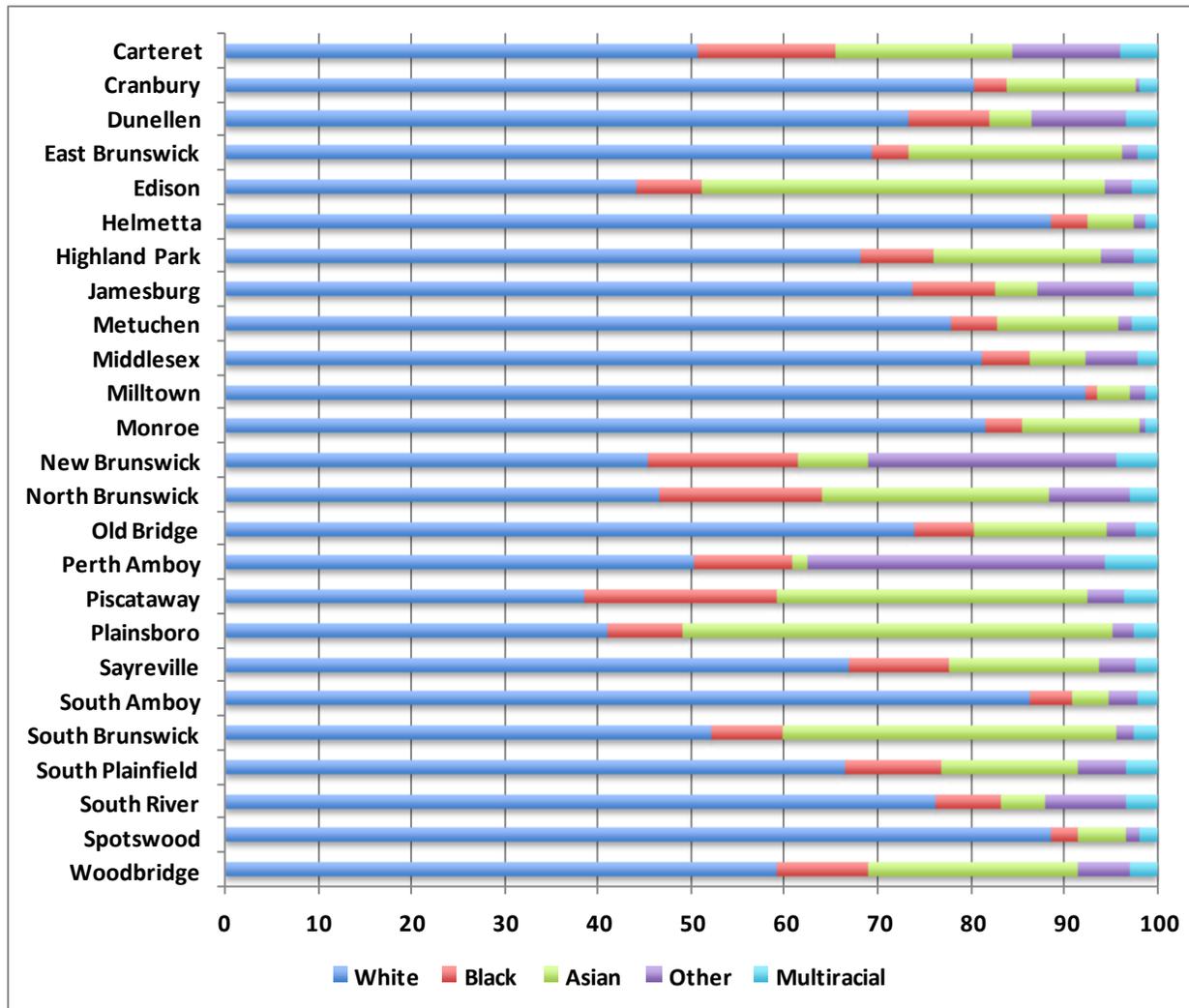
## Middlesex County Population by Race, 2010



*Note: Race categories used by the U.S. Census Bureau include White, Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, Two or More Races, and Some Other Race. Because the percentage of American/Indian/Alaska Native and Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander were very small in Middlesex County (less than 1%), these groups were combined with the Other race category, which also includes Middlesex County residents who self-identified as "Some Other Race."*

# Population Demographics

## Population Race by Middlesex County Municipality, 2010



*Note: The Other race category indicated on the chart above includes residents who self-identified their race as American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and Some Other Race.*

### Main Points:

1. Racial diversity varies greatly across Middlesex County municipalities.
2. The White population exceeds 80% in seven communities (Cranbury, Helmetta, Middlesex, Milltown, Monroe, South Amboy and Spotswood).
3. The Black population exceeds 10% in seven communities (Piscataway, North Brunswick, New Brunswick, Carteret, Perth Amboy, South Plainfield, and Sayreville).
4. The Asian population exceeds 33% in four communities (Plainsboro, Edison, South Brunswick, and Piscataway). The Asian population exceeds 10% in 11 other municipalities.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

# Population Demographics

## Main Points:

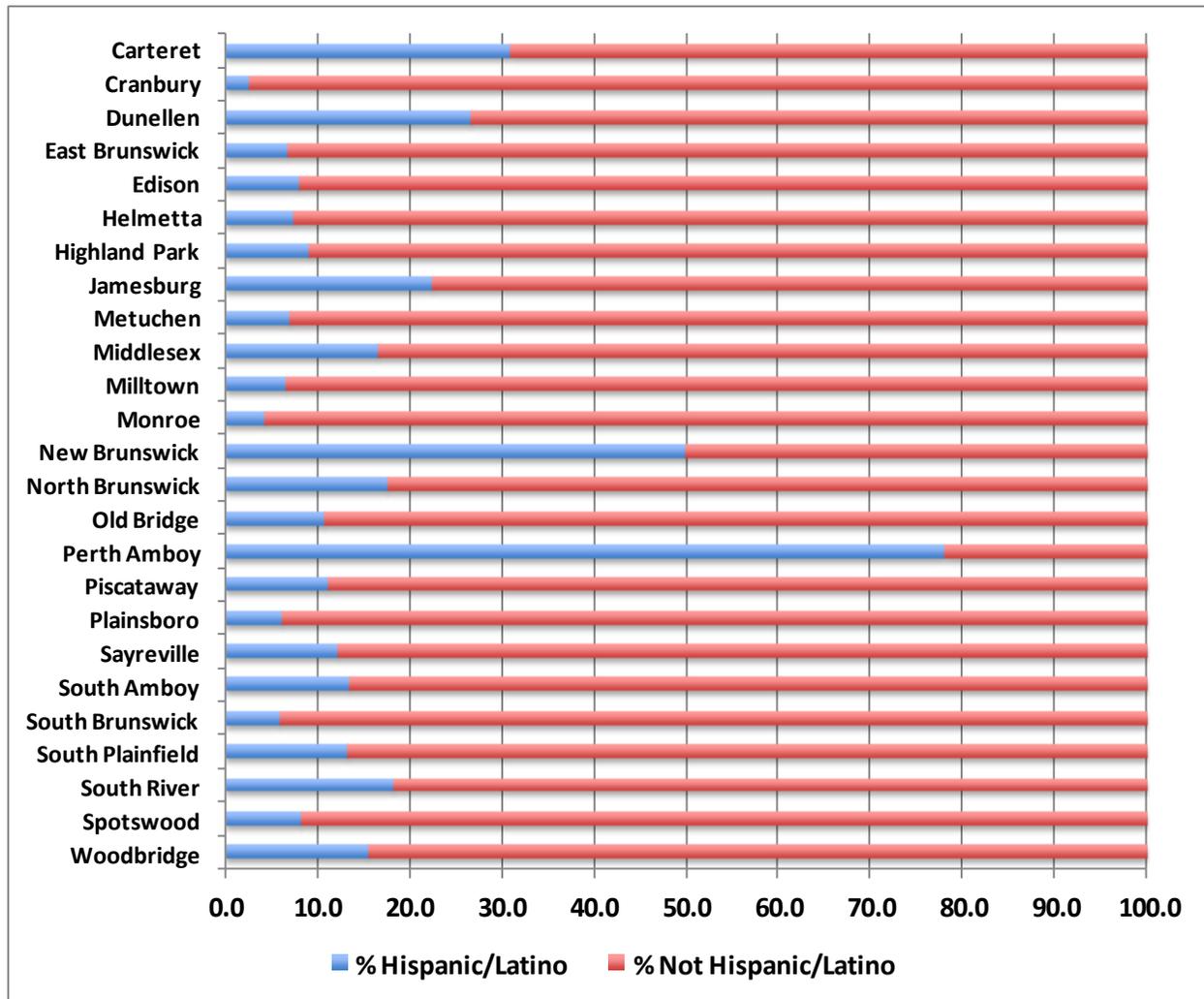
1. Asians comprise a significant portion of the population in Plainsboro (46.2%), Edison (43.2%), South Brunswick (35.9%), Piscataway (33.4%) and North Brunswick (24.3%).
2. Large Asian Indian populations are found in Plainsboro (29.6%), Edison (28.3%), South Brunswick (25.4%), Piscataway (19%) and North Brunswick (17.1%).
3. Large Chinese populations are found in Plainsboro (11.1%), East Brunswick (9.5%), Edison (7.9%), Highland Park (7.3%) and Dunellen (6.2%).
4. Large Filipino populations are found in Piscataway (4.2%), Edison (2.5%), Old Bridge, South Plainfield and Woodbridge (all 2.4%).

## Largest Asian Populations by Municipality, 2010

All Asian	Asian Indian	Chinese	Filipino
Plainsboro (46.2%)	Plainsboro (29.6%)	Plainsboro (11.1%)	Piscataway (4.2%)
Edison (43.2%)	Edison (28.3%)	East Brunswick (9.5%)	Edison (2.5%)
South Brunswick (35.9%)	South Brunswick (25.4%)	Edison (7.9%)	Old Bridge (2.4%)
Piscataway (33.4%)	Piscataway (19%)	Highland Park (7.3%)	South Plainfield (2.4%)
North Brunswick (24.3%)	North Brunswick (17.1%)	Dunellen (6.2%)	Woodbridge (2.4%)
Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	Other Asian
Plainsboro (.5%)	Highland Park (2.5%)	Middlesex (1.7%)	South Brunswick (2.8%)
Highland Park (.4%)	East Brunswick (2%)	South Plainfield (1.6%)	Carteret (2.8%)

# Population Demographics

## Hispanic/Latino Ethnicity by Middlesex County Municipality, 2010



*The U.S. Census classifies Hispanic/Latino as an ethnicity. Respondents report whether they are of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity in addition to reporting their race.*

### Main Points:

1. In 2010, 18.4% of the Middlesex County population identified as being of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity, compared to 17.7% of NJ residents.
2. Almost 80% of Perth Amboy residents identified as Hispanic/Latino.
3. New Brunswick (49.9%), Carteret (30.9%), Dunellen (26.7%) and Jamesburg (22.4%) also have substantial Hispanic/Latino populations.
4. Middlesex, North Brunswick, Old Bridge, Piscataway, Sayreville, South Amboy, South Plainfield, South River and Woodbridge have Hispanic/Latino populations that exceed 10% of residents.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

# Population Demographics

## Main Points:

1. Hispanics/Latinos comprise a substantial portion of the population in Perth Amboy (78.1%), New Brunswick (49.9%), Carteret (30.9%), Dunellen (26.7%) and Jamesburg (22.4%).
2. The highest percentage of Mexican residents are in New Brunswick (25.6%), Perth Amboy (10.2%) and Jamesburg (9.3%).
3. Large Puerto Rican populations are found in Perth Amboy (23.8%) and Carteret (13.7%).
4. Perth Amboy and Carteret and the municipalities with the highest percentage of Cuban residents.

Source: American Community Survey, 2010

## Largest Hispanic/Latino Populations by Municipality, 2010

All Hispanic	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Other Hispanic/Latino
Perth Amboy (78.1%)	New Brunswick (25.6%)	Perth Amboy (23.8%)	Perth Amboy (1.6%)	Perth Amboy (1.6%)
New Brunswick (49.9%)	Perth Amboy (10.2%)	Carteret (13.7%)	Carteret (1.3%)	Carteret (1.3%)
Carteret (30.9%)	Jamesburg (9.3%)	Woodbridge (6.1%)		
Dunellen (26.7%)	South River (5.6%)	South Amboy (6.0%)		
Jamesburg (22.4%)	North Brunswick (3.7%)	Sayreville (5.4%)		

# Population Demographics

## Non-English Speaking Populations, Middlesex County and NJ, 2010

	Middlesex County	New Jersey
Speak English only at Home	58.7%	70.3%
Speak Language Other than English at Home	41.3%	29.7%
Speak Spanish at Home	15%	15.3%
Speak Other Indo-European Language at Home	14.4%	8.5%
Speak Asian-Pacific Islander Language at Home	9.8%	4.5%
Speak Other Language at Home	2.2%	1.3%

### Main Points:

1. Compared to New Jersey residents, Middlesex County residents less likely to speak English at home.
2. About 41.3% of Middlesex County residents speak a language other than English at home, compared to about 30% of New Jersey residents.
3. Middlesex County residents are also more likely to speak an Indo-European language at home (14.4%) or an Asian-Pacific Islander language at home (9.8%) than all New Jersey residents.

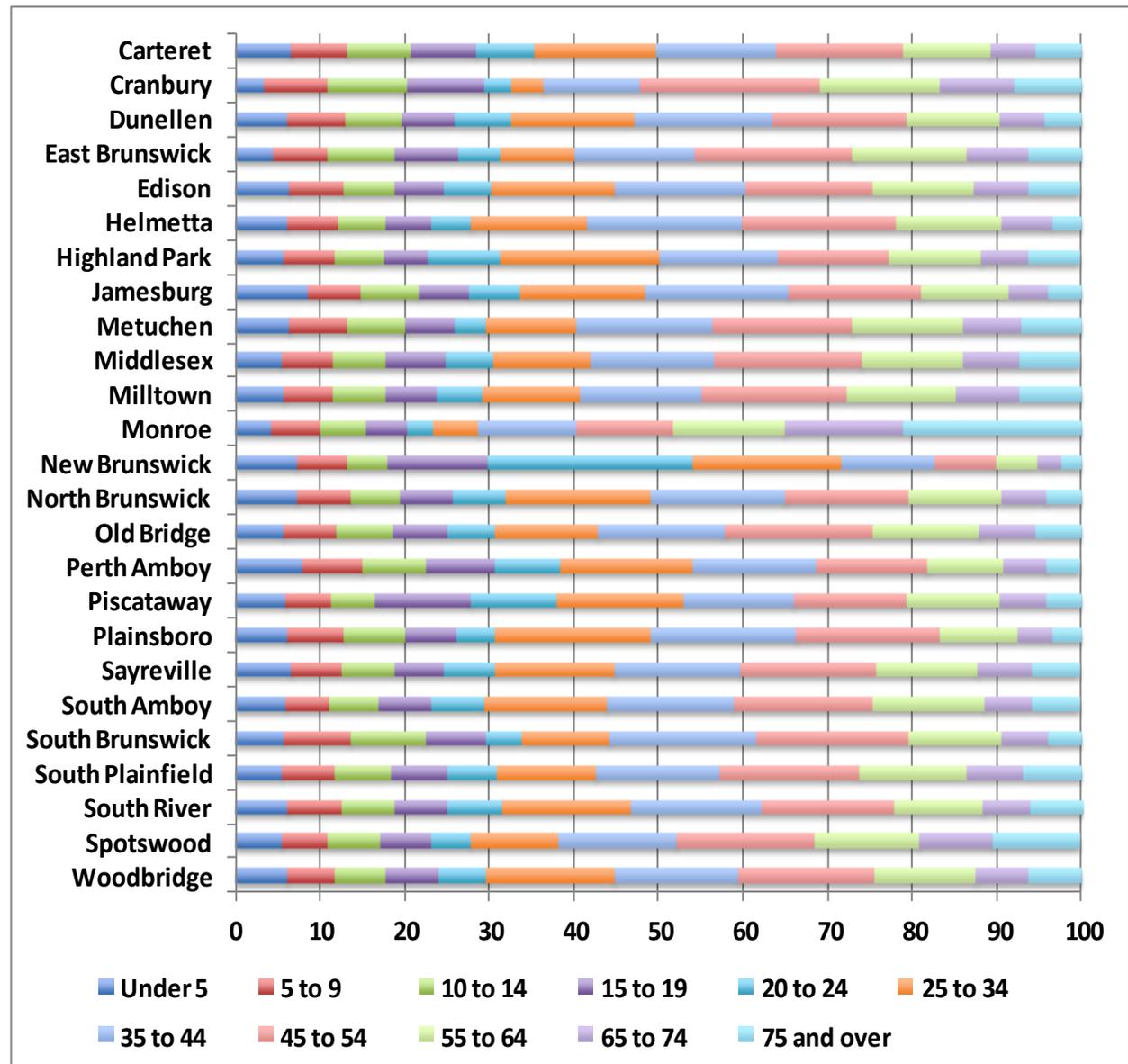
# Population Demographics

## Main Points:

1. The median age in Middlesex County municipalities ranges from 23.3 in New Brunswick to 53.2 in Monroe. The median age in New Jersey is 39.
2. The youngest populations can be found in New Brunswick, Perth Amboy and Piscataway.
3. Older populations can be found in Monroe, Cranbury, Spotswood and East Brunswick.

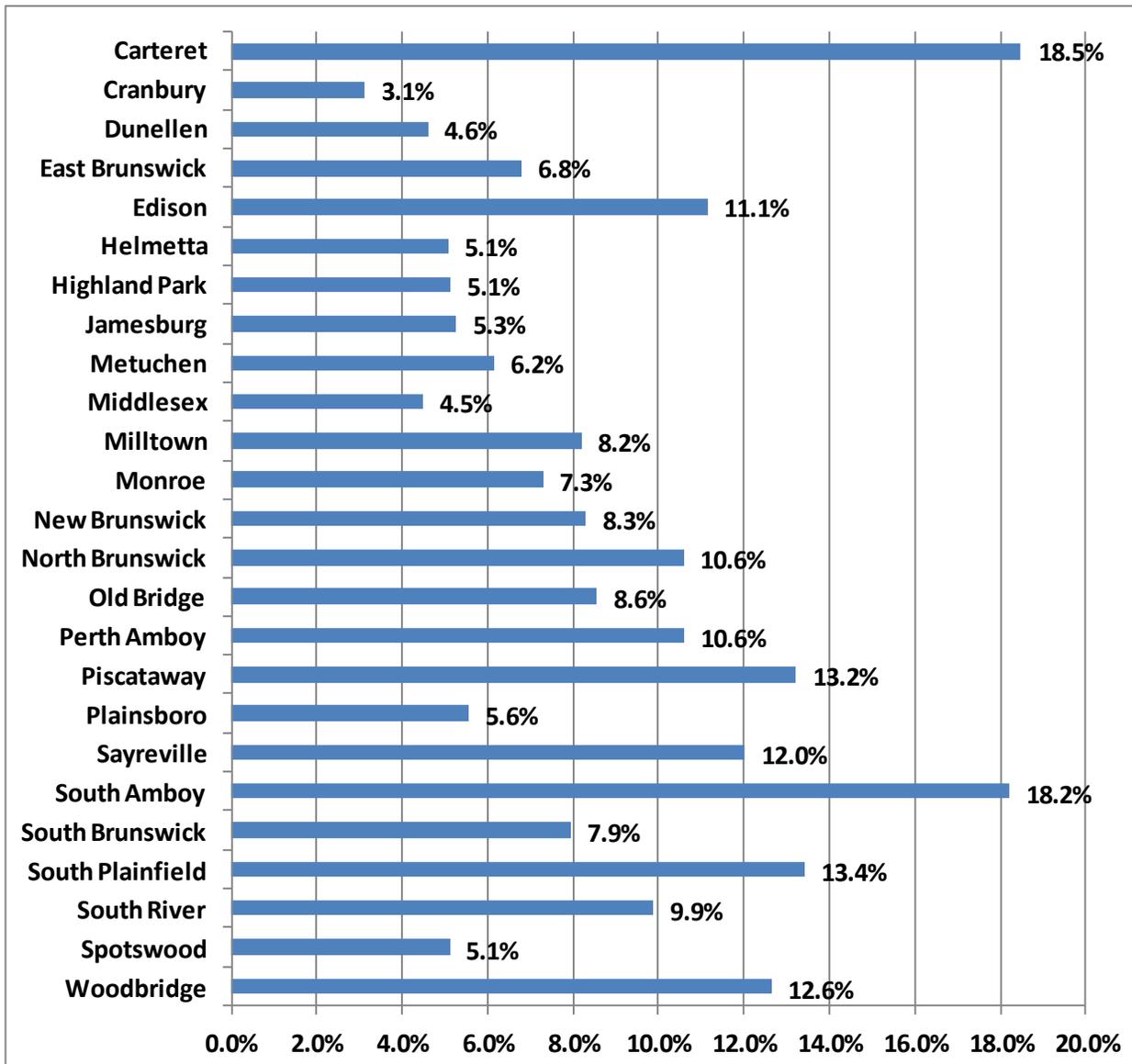
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Population Age by Middlesex County Municipality, 2010



# Population Demographics

## Children Living with Grandparent(s) by Municipality (2010)



### Main Points:

1. More than 5% of children in most Middlesex County municipalities were living with a grandparent.
2. Almost 20% of children in Carteret and South Amboy were living with a grandparent in 2010.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

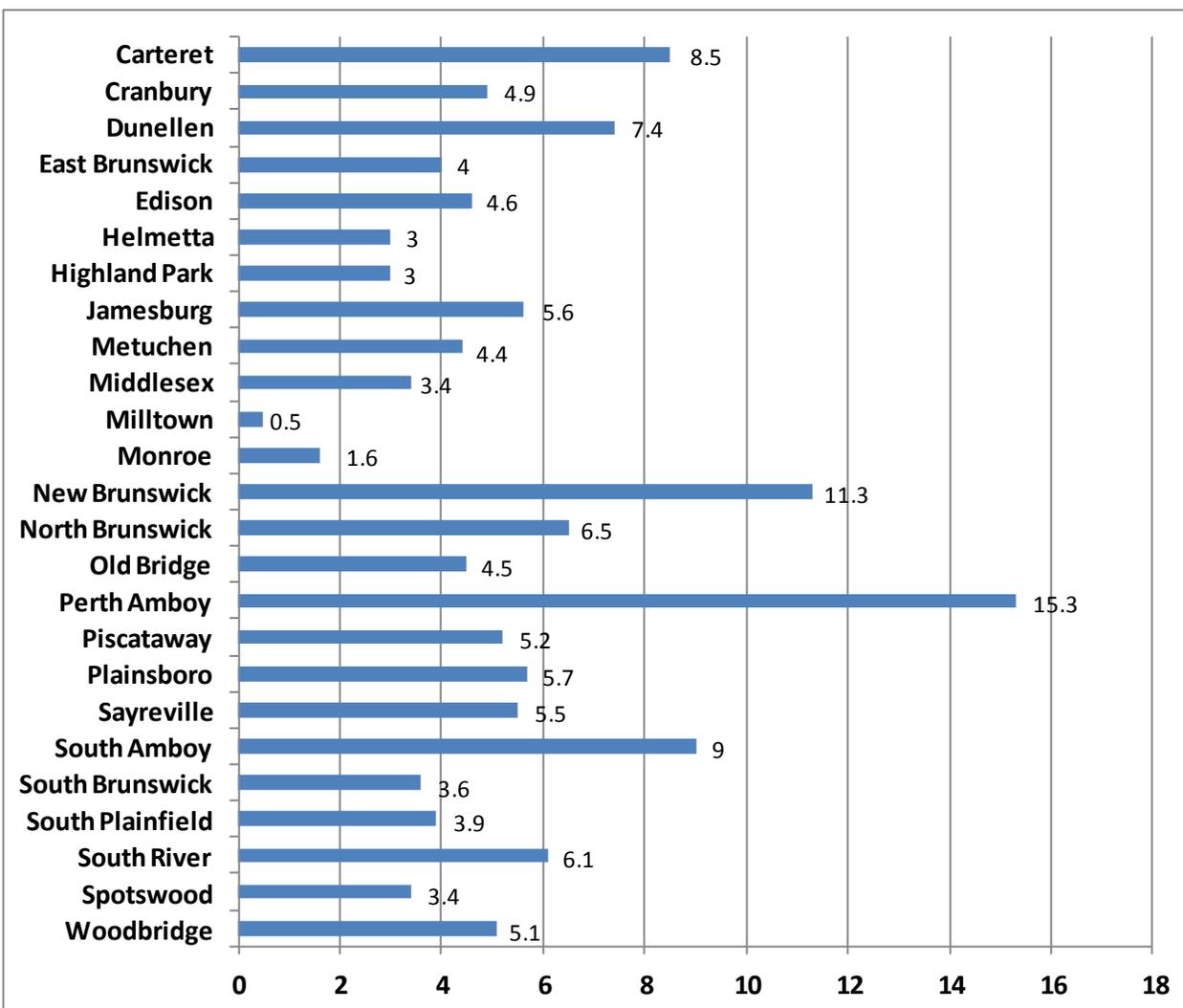
# Population Demographics

## Main Points:

1. The percentage of Middlesex County households with children that were headed by a single-female ranged from a low of .5% in Milltown to 15.3% in Perth Amboy.
2. On average, 6.6% of households with children in New Jersey were headed by a single-female in 2010.
3. The percentage of households with children that were headed by a single-female exceeded the state average in five municipalities (Perth Amboy, New Brunswick, South Amboy, Carteret and Dunellen).

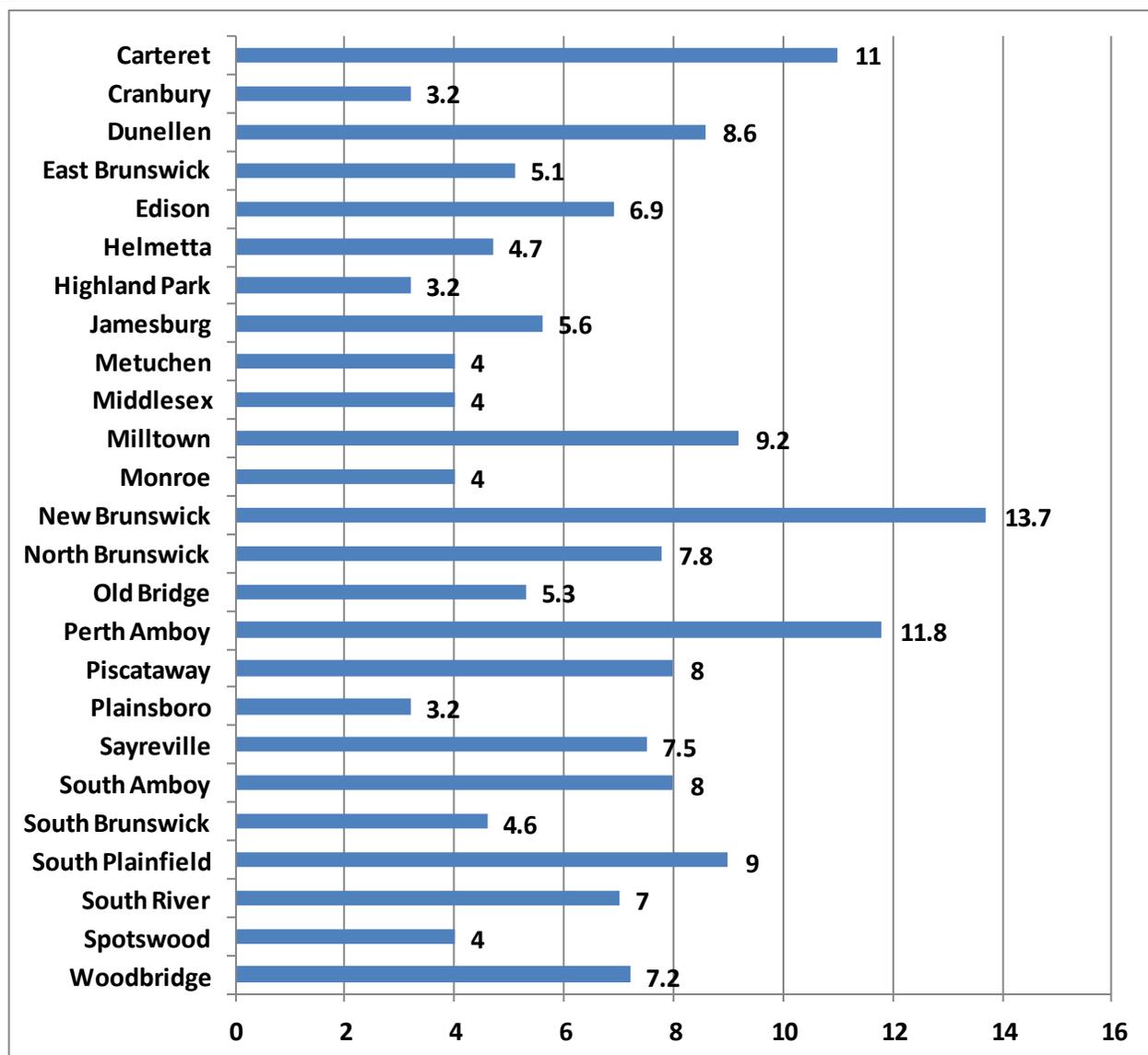
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Single-Female Headed Households with Children, by Municipality (2010)



# Population Demographics

## “Other Relative” Households, by Municipality (2010)



### Main Points:

1. The percentage of Middlesex County households that included “other” relatives (not a spouse or a child) ranged from a low of 3.2% in Cranbury, Highland Park and Plainsboro) to 13.7% in New Brunswick.
2. On average, 5% of households in New Jersey included “other relatives” in 2010.
3. The percentage of households with “other relatives” exceeded the state average in 15 Middlesex County municipalities.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

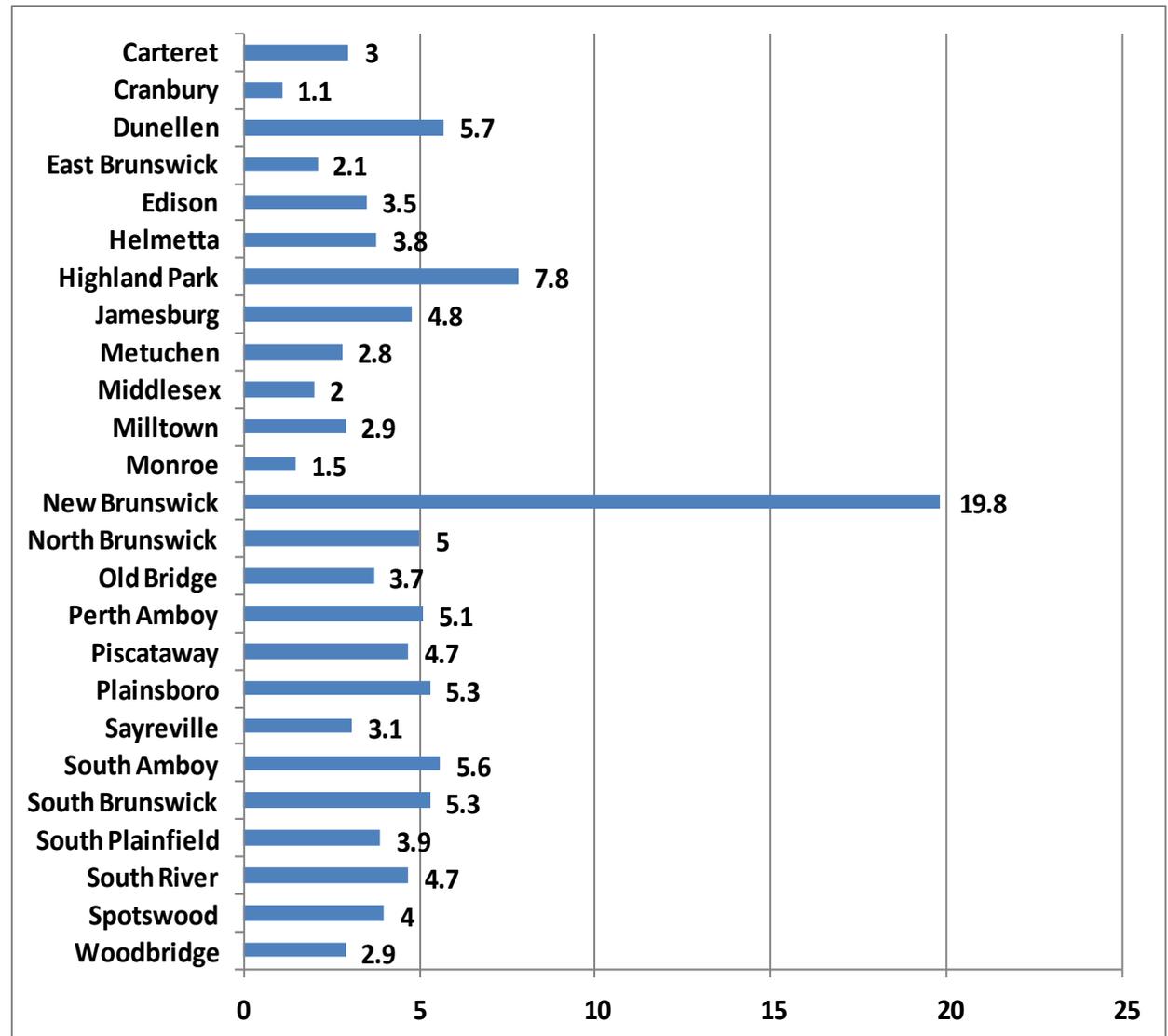
# Population Demographics

## Main Points:

1. The percentage of Middlesex County households that included “non-relatives” ranged from a low of 1.1% in Cranbury to 19.8% in New Brunswick (an anomaly likely explained by the large University student population).
2. On average, 4.7% of households in New Jersey included “non-relatives” in 2010.
3. The percentage of households with “non-relatives” exceeded the state average in nine Middlesex County municipalities.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Non-Relative Households, by Municipality (2010)



# Education

## Early Care and Education Need and Cost (2011)

### Children Depending on Care While Parents Work

Age	Child Population	Children with Working Parents		
		Number	Number	Percent
0-5	Living with two parents	44,238	23,723	53.6%
	Living with one parent	14,513	11,287	77.8%
6-17	Living with two parents	90,903	62,257	68.5%
	Living with one parent	30,891	25,803	83.5%

### Cost of Care

Average Annual Cost of Care					
Age		Licensed Child Care Center	Accredited Child Care Center	Registered Family Child Care Homes	Accredited Family Child Care Homes
Infant	County	\$12,084	\$12,144	\$7,908	\$8,700
	NJ	\$11,135	\$12,546	\$8,573	\$9,606
Four-Year Old	County	\$9,456	\$10,404	\$6,360	\$8,316
	NJ	\$9,098	\$9,705	\$7,626	\$8,785
Before/After School	County	\$6,888	n/a	\$9,096	n/a
	NJ	\$5,636	\$5,747	\$5,573	\$7,485

### Main Points:

1. In Middlesex County, more than 60% of children ages birth to five and more than 73% of children ages six to 17 require care while their parents work.
2. The average annual cost of providing full-time care for an infant in Middlesex County ranges from \$8,681 in a registered family child care home to \$10,252 in an accredited child care center.
3. A single parent working full-time (40 hours per week) at a minimum wage job would pay between 58% and 68% of their pre-tax wages for child care for an infant.

# Education

## Main Points:

1. While research has consistently demonstrated a strong link between high quality early care and education and later life outcomes, only 7% of Middlesex County child care centers and child care homes are accredited.
2. Accredited child care centers and child care homes account for only 12% of all child care slots available in Middlesex County.
3. More than 600 Middlesex County children were on the waiting list to receive a child care subsidy in 2011.

*Source: NJ Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (2011)*

## Early Care and Education Availability (2011)

Slots in Licensed Centers and Registered Homes		
Type of Program	Number of Facilities	Total Capacity
Licensed Child Care Centers	272	22,099
Accredited Child Care Centers	28	2,561
Registered Family Child Care Homes	142	710
Accredited Family Child Care Homes	1	5
<b>Total Available Child Care (including school-age)</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>22,809</b>

To be eligible to receive a child care subsidy from the New Jersey Department of Human Services, gross family income cannot exceed \$36,775 for a two-person family or \$55,875 for a four-person family.

**Number of Children Receiving any Child Care Subsidy: 1,718**

**Number of Subsidy-Eligible Children on Subsidy Wait List: 611**

# Education

## 4th Grade Proficiency Scores, by District (2011)

District	Percent Proficient Language Arts	Percent Proficient Math
Carteret	51.00%	74.30%
Cranbury	84.00%	98.60%
Dunellen	71.60%	85.20%
East Brunswick	77.40%	90.80%
Edison	76.90%	90.10%
Helmetta/Spotswood	80.00%	93.90%
Highland Park	72.70%	83.20%
Jamesburg	57.20%	79.30%
Metuchen	79.00%	84.70%
Middlesex	69.10%	91.30%
Milltown	73.60%	88.90%
Monroe	79.80%	91.90%
New Brunswick	28.60%	51.50%
North Brunswick	64.10%	78.10%
Old Bridge	70.50%	85.80%
Perth Amboy	43.40%	70.80%
Piscataway	68.90%	83.20%
Plainsboro	86.30%	93.40%
Sayreville	64.40%	82.40%
South Amboy	87.70%	93.90%
South Brunswick	76.80%	88.10%
South Plainfield	70.30%	90.70%
South River	62.70%	73.80%
Spotswood/Helmetta	80.00%	93.90%
Woodbridge	74.60%	93.00%

### Main Points:

1. The percentage of 4th graders who scored proficient in language arts ranged from 28.6% in New Brunswick to 87.7% in South Amboy.
2. The percentage of 4th graders who scored proficient in math ranged from 51.5% in New Brunswick to 98.6% in Cranbury.

*Source: NJ Department of Education*

# Education

## Main Points:

1. The percentage of 8th graders who scored proficient in language arts ranged from 51.4% in New Brunswick to 97.2% in Cranbury.
2. The percentage of 8th graders who scored proficient in math ranged from 35.3% in New Brunswick to 97% in Cranbury.

*Source: NJ Department of Education*

## 8th Grade Proficiency, by District (2011)

District	Percent Proficient Language Arts	Percent Proficient Math
Carteret	81.70%	79.80%
Cranbury	97.20%	97.00%
Dunellen	87.00%	74.20%
East Brunswick	89.90%	81.1%
Edison	90.90%	82.00%
Helmetta/Spotswood	93.10%	90.70%
Highland Park	86.00%	66.30%
Jamesburg	87.00%	68.10%
Metuchen	91.60%	81.40%
Middlesex	85.00%	81.50%
Milltown	91.60%	86.10%
Monroe	90.20%	68.00%
New Brunswick	51.40%	35.30%
North Brunswick	84.20%	73.80%
Old Bridge	88.30%	74.50%
Perth Amboy	56.10%	43.20%
Piscataway	82.00%	74.00%
Plainsboro	96.70%	88.30%
Sayreville	80.90%	72.20%
South Amboy	81.40%	61.90%
South Brunswick	94.20%	83.70%
South Plainfield	88.40%	75.50%
South River	86.10%	74.40%
Spotswood/Helmetta	93.10%	90.70%
Woodbridge	86.60%	82.10%

# Education

## High School Proficiency, by District (2011)

District	School	Percent Proficient Language Arts	Percent Proficient Math
Carteret	Carteret HS	88.5%	70.8%
Dunellen	Dunellen HS	92.1%	86.9%
East Brunswick	East Brunswick HS	94.8%	88.3%
Edison	Edison HS	91.6%	77.6%
	JP Stevens HS	95.2%	88.6%
Highland Park	Highland Park HS	94.2%	79.6%
Metuchen	Metuchen HS	96.1%	89.3%
Middlesex	Middlesex HS	93.0%	84.0%
Monroe	Monroe HS	94.1%	81.4%
New Brunswick	New Brunswick HS	70.7%	48.7%
North Brunswick	North Brunswick HS	92.2%	78.9%
Old Bridge	Old Bridge HS	94.5%	81.7%
Perth Amboy	Perth Amboy HS	75.3%	56.3%
Piscataway	Piscataway HS	93.3%	84.4%
Plainsboro	WW-P HS North	97.5%	93.7%
	WW-P HS South	97.0%	93.5%
Sayreville	War Memorial HS	89.9%	78.6%
South Amboy	South Amboy HS	92.6%	65.9%
South Brunswick	South Brunswick HS	97.0%	85.1%
South Plainfield	South Plainfield HS	93.8%	79.1%
South River	South River HS	91.0%	74.4%
Spotswood	Spotswood HS	97.5%	91.5%
Woodbridge	Colonia HS	97.6%	86.4%
	JFK Memorial HS	96.4%	91.5%
	Woodbridge HS	98.2%	94.3%

### Main Points:

1. The percentage of 11th graders who scored proficient in language arts ranged from 70.7% in New Brunswick to 98.2% at Woodbridge High School.
2. The percentage of 11th graders who scored proficient in math ranged from 48.7% in New Brunswick to 93.7% at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North.

*Source: NJ Department of Education*

# Education

## **Main Points:**

1. Most Middlesex County high schools exceeded the average NJ high school graduation rate (83%) in 2011.
2. The two schools that did not meet the average NJ high school graduation rate were located in Carteret (82%) and New Brunswick (58.8%).

*Source: NJ Department of Education*

*Note: The NJ Department of Education revised the method for calculating high school graduation rates beginning with the Class of 2011 to reflect the federally-mandated methodology. In general, the high school graduation rate dropped an average of 9 percentage points between 2010 and 2011 due primarily to this change.*

## **High School Graduation Rates**

District	School	2010	2011
Carteret	Carteret HS	90.3%	82.0%
Dunellen	Dunellen HS	98.7%	90.4%
East Brunswick	East Brunswick HS	99.0%	97.4%
Edison	Edison HS	98.5%	85.9%
	JP Stevens HS	98.9%	91.2%
Highland Park	Highland Park HS	100.0%	88.3%
Metuchen	Metuchen HS	99.4%	95.2%
Middlesex	Middlesex HS	99.4%	91.5%
Monroe	Monroe HS	98.2%	95.6%
New Brunswick	New Brunswick HS	68.8%	58.8%
North Brunswick	North Brunswick HS	96.3%	90.2%
Old Bridge	Old Bridge HS	99.2%	94.8%
Perth Amboy	Perth Amboy HS	95.7%	83.0%
Piscataway	Piscataway HS	97.4%	88.3%
Plainsboro	WW-P HS North	99.2%	96.1%
	WW-P HS South	100.0%	98.1%
Sayreville	War Memorial HS	98.0%	89.0%
South Amboy	South Amboy HS	100.0%	88.5%
South Brunswick	South Brunswick HS	98.5%	95.3%
South Plainfield	South Plainfield HS	98.3%	93.3%
South River	South River HS	93.5%	89.8%
Spotswood	Spotswood HS	99.5%	95.1%
Woodbridge	Colonia HS	98.3%	95.5%
	JFK Memorial HS	98.6%	90.5%
	Woodbridge HS	96.5%	91.3%

# Education

## Educational Attainment of Population Age 25 or Older, by County (2010)

County	Percent High School Graduates	Percent Holding Bachelor's Degree
Atlantic	84.7%	23.6%
Bergen	90.9%	44.5%
Burlington	90.9%	33.5%
Camden	85.4%	27.9%
Cape May	88.2%	26.4%
Cumberland	75.8%	13.3%
Essex	82.0%	31.6%
Gloucester	89.5%	26.9%
Hudson	80.3%	34.6%
Hunterdon	94.0%	47.5%
Mercer	86.5%	38.2%
<b>Middlesex</b>	<b>88.0%</b>	<b>38.4%</b>
Monmouth	91.2%	39.2%
Morris	93.1%	48.4%
Ocean	89.1%	24.3%
Passaic	81.5%	25.2%
Salem	85.6%	18.3%
Somerset	92.7%	49.8%
Sussex	93.0%	31.4%
Union	84.3%	31.2%
Warren	89.3%	28.6%

### Main Points:

1. 88% of Middlesex County residents age 25 or older were high school graduates in 2010. Middlesex County ranks 12th out of 21 counties for the percentage of the population age 25 or older who are high school graduates.
2. Slightly more than 38% of Middlesex County residents age 25 or older held a bachelor's degree in 2010. Middlesex County ranks 6th out of 21 counties for the percentage of the population age 25 or older who are college graduates.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

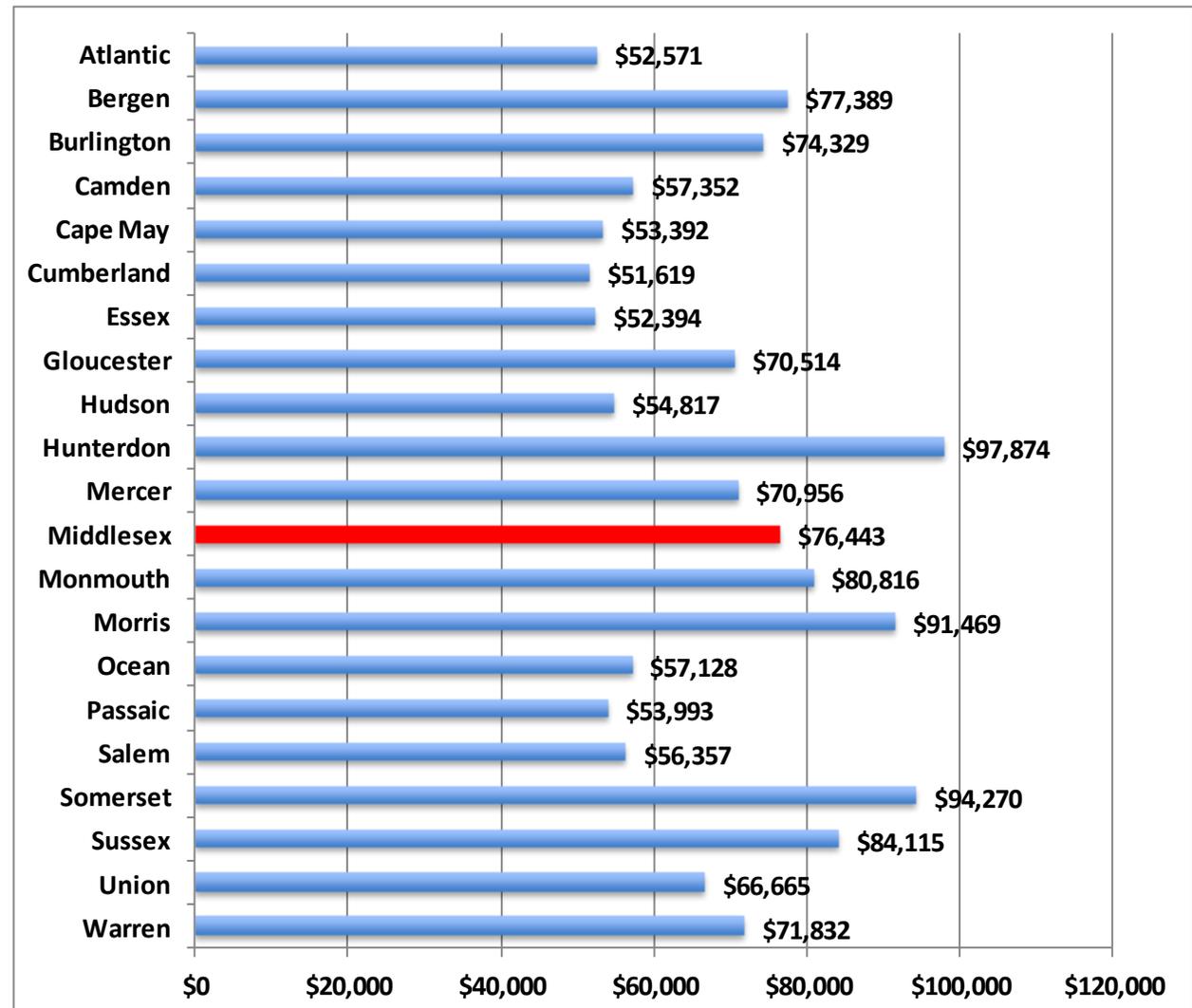
# Income

## Main Points:

1. Median household income in Middlesex County was 76,443 in 2010, approximately a 25% increase from 2000. The inflation rate during the same period increased by 27.93%. Hence, household income over the past decade grew more slowly than the inflation rate.
2. In 2010, Middlesex County ranked as the 6th highest median household income among the 21 counties in New Jersey.
3. The median household income for all New Jersey households was \$67,681 in 2010.

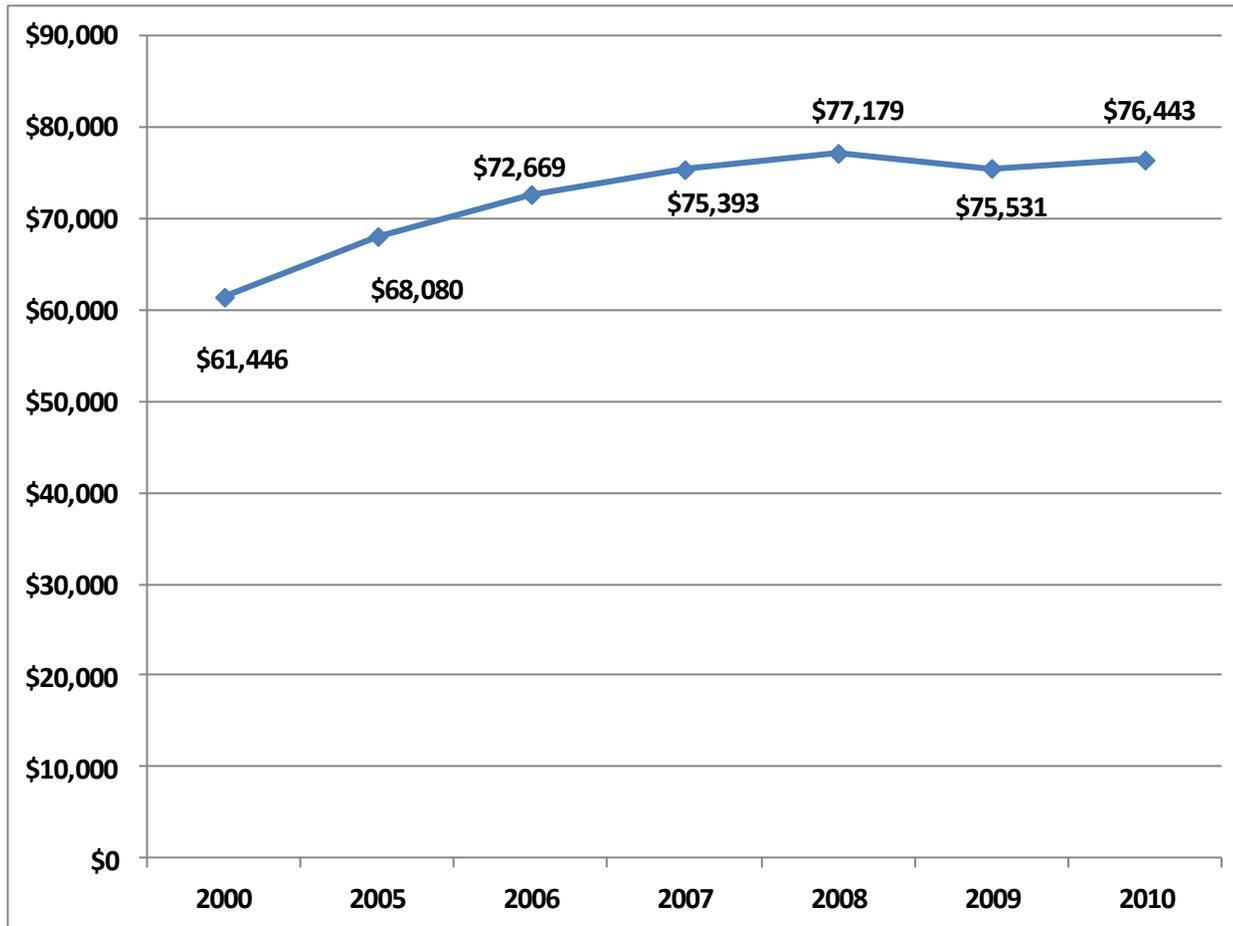
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Median Household Income, by County (2010)



# Income

## Middlesex County Median Household Income, (2000-2010)



### Main Points:

1. Although the median household income in Middlesex County increased 25% between 2000 and 2010.
2. Median household income in Middlesex County dropped from \$77,179 in 2008 to \$75,531 in 2009. Although income increased to \$76,443 in 2010, it remained below the 2008 level.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

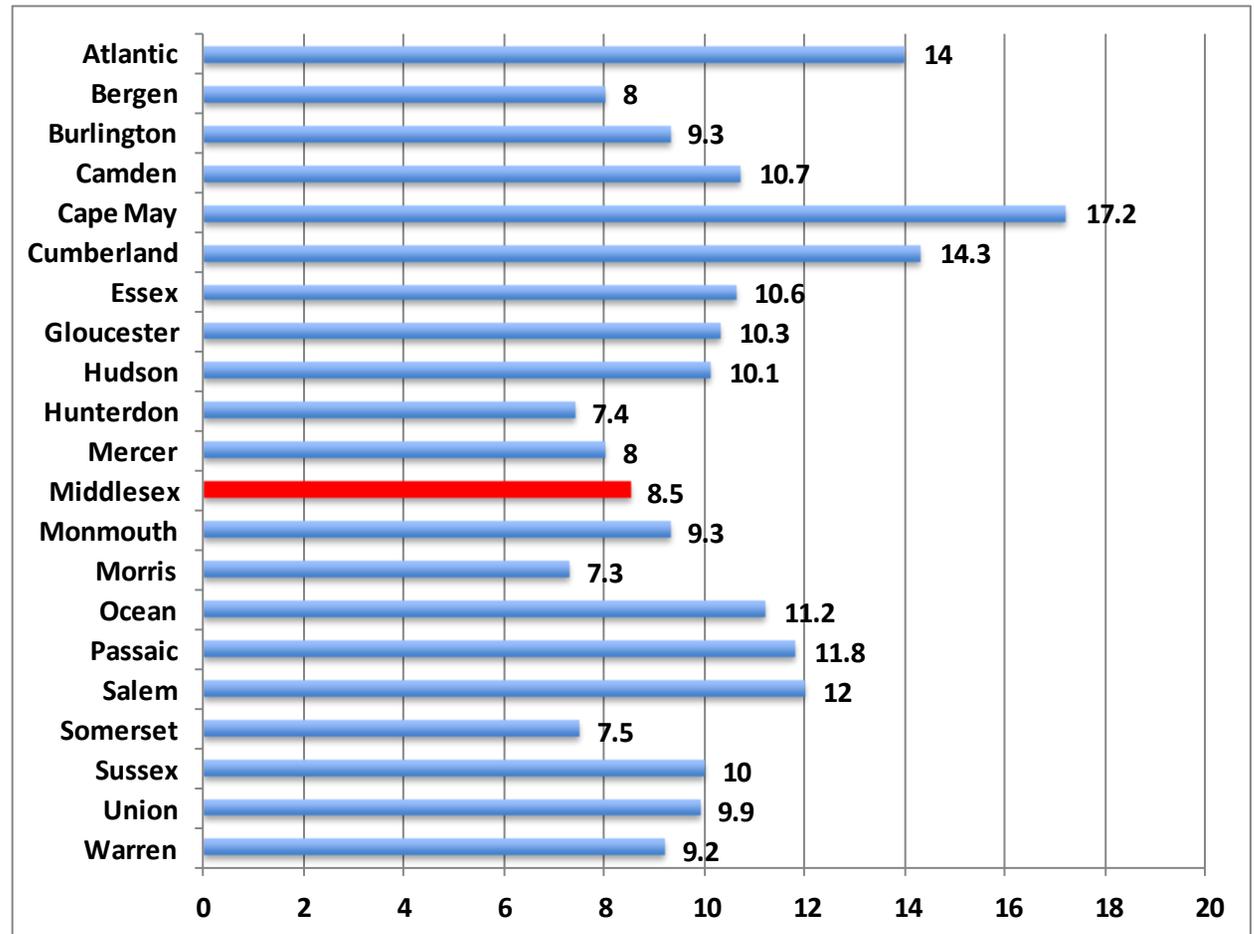
# Income

## Main Points:

1. The unemployment rate in Middlesex County in February 2012 was 8.5%, compared to the state's unemployment rate of 9.7%.
2. In February 2012, Middlesex County had the 4th lowest unemployment rate among New Jersey's 21 counties.

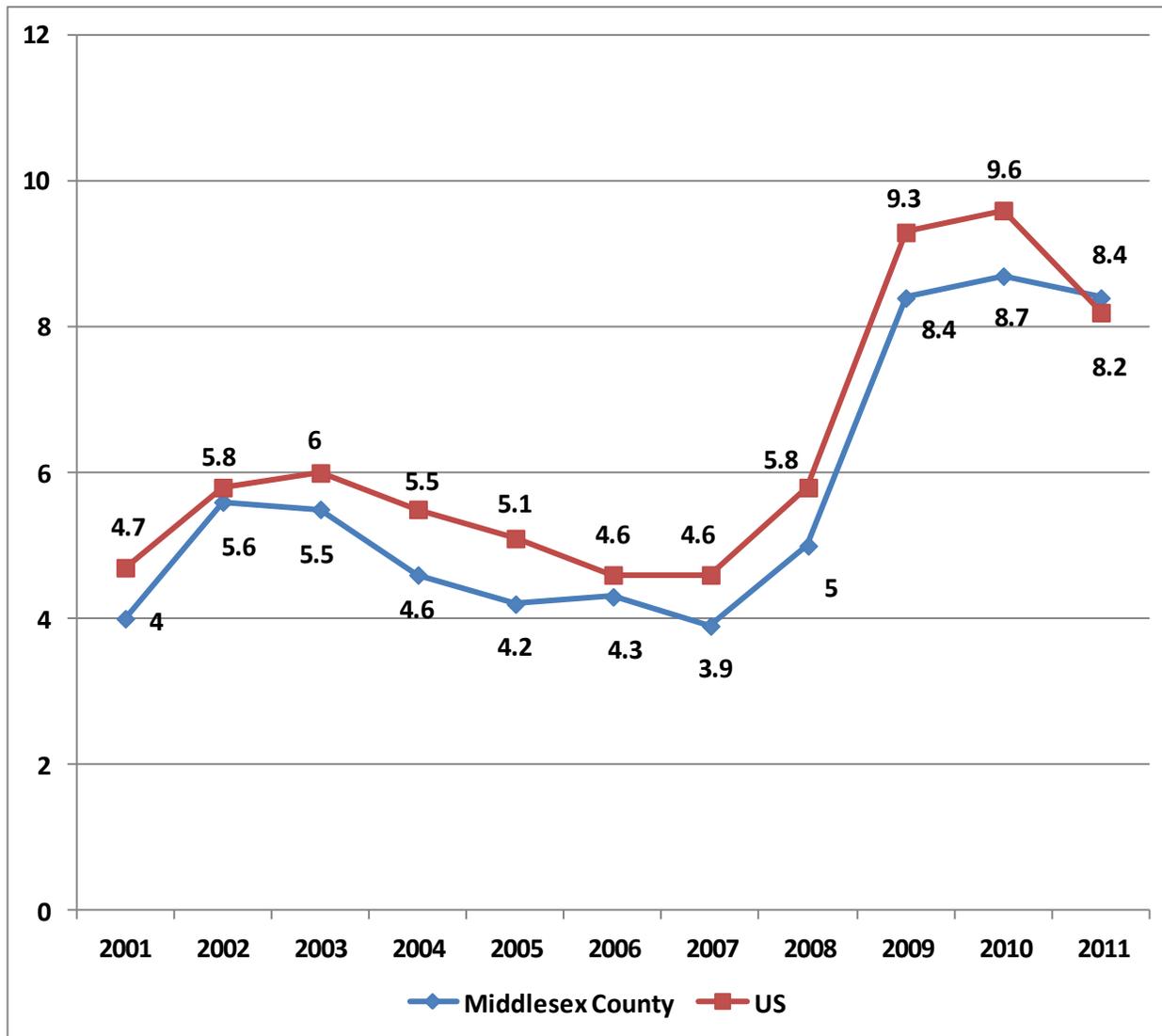
Source: N.J. Department of Labor

## Unemployment Rate, by County (February 2012)



# Income

## Unemployment Rate, Middlesex County-United States (2001-2011)



### Main Points:

1. Between 2001 and 2011, the Middlesex County unemployment rate closely tracked, the national unemployment rate.
2. Between 2001 and 2011, the Middlesex County unemployment rate was consistently slightly lower than the national rate. The exception was 2011, when the national rate was 8.2% and the Middlesex County rate was 8.4%.

Source: N.J. Department of Labor

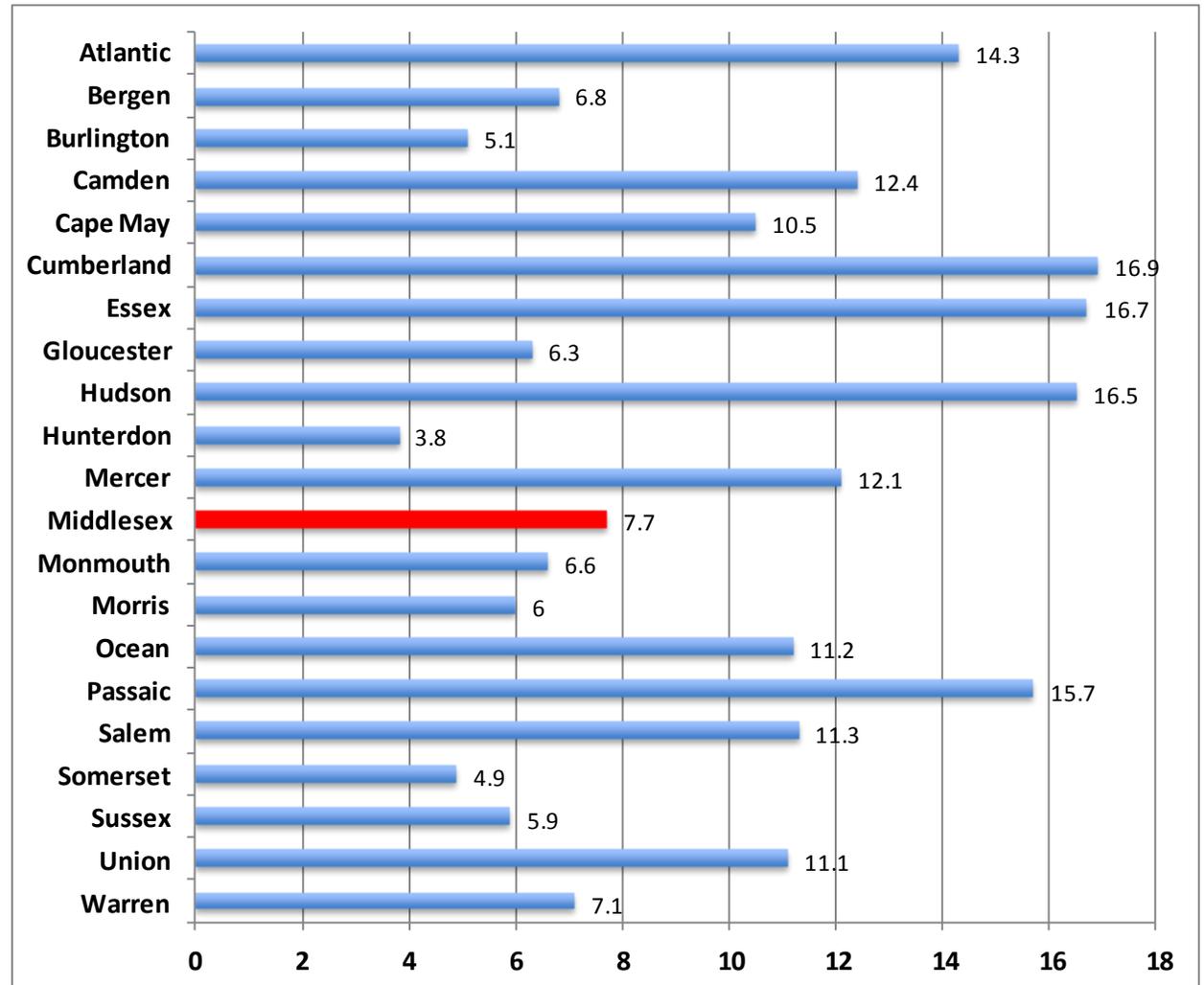
# Income

## Main Points:

1. In 2010, 7.7% of Middlesex County residents had incomes below the poverty level compared to 10.3% of all New Jersey residents.
2. Middlesex County had the 10th lowest poverty rate among New Jersey's 21 counties in 2010.
3. Families headed by a female householder with children under age 18 (and with no husband present) had the highest poverty rate within Middlesex County, 24.1%.
4. In comparison, the poverty rate for married couples with children under age 18 in Middlesex County was 3.5%.

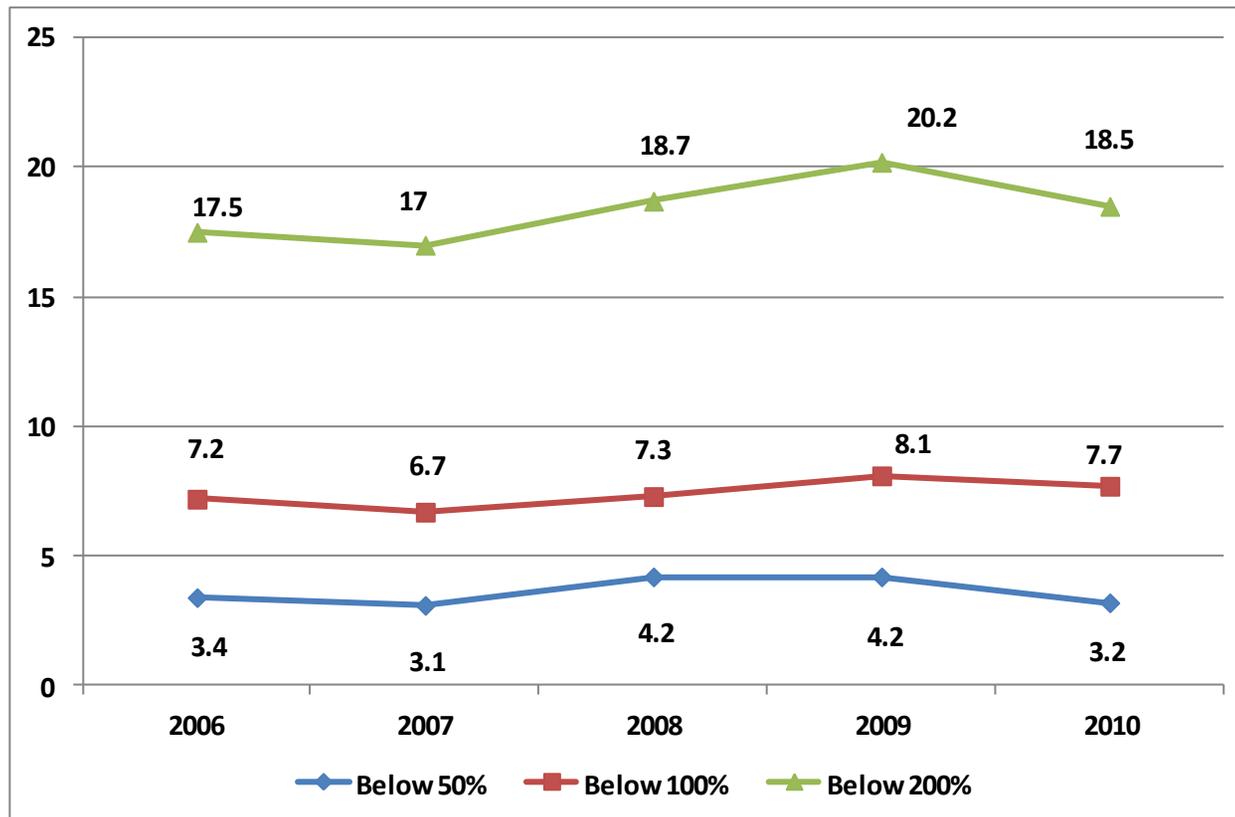
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## People Living Below Federal Poverty Level, by County (2010)



# Income

## Middlesex County Poverty Rates, (2006-2010)



*In a 2008 study, the Legal Services of New Jersey Poverty Research Institute calculated \$61,149 as the annual income that a three-person family (one adult, one preschool child and one school-aged child) would require to live self-sufficiently in Middlesex County. This annual self-sufficiency income was 348% above the federal poverty rate in 2008 (\$17,600).*

### Main Points:

1. The percentage of the Middlesex County population living in severe poverty (defined as below 50% of the federal poverty level) has held relatively steady between 2006 and 2010, peaking at 4.2% in 2008 and 2009.
2. The percentage of the Middlesex County population living in poverty (defined as below 100% of the federal poverty level) has held relatively steady between 2006 and 2010, peaking at 8.1% in 2009.
3. The percentage of the Middlesex County population living in true poverty (defined as below 200% of the federal poverty level) increased from 17.5% in 2006 to 20.2% in 2009 before dipping to 18.5% in 2010.

*Source: Legal Services of New Jersey*

# Income

## Main Points:

1. The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program is the primary public source of financial assistance for poor families.
2. In February 2012, 1,463 Middlesex County residents received TANF benefits, a 7% decrease from the 1,574 residents who received TANF benefits in February 2010.

Source: N.J. Department of Human Services

## Families Receiving TANF, by County (2010-2012)

Municipality	2012	2011	2010
Atlantic	5.5%	5.4%	5.3%
Bergen	3.1%	3.3%	3.1%
Burlington	3.1%	3.0%	3.2%
Camden	11.4%	10.9%	10.6%
Cape May	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%
Cumberland	3.3%	3.8%	3.9%
Essex	20.3%	21.0%	21.5%
Gloucester	3.2%	3.1%	3.1%
Hudson	11.6%	12.0%	13.0%
Hunterdon	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Mercer	6.0%	6.3%	6.1%
<b>Middlesex</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>4.1%</b>
Monmouth	2.6%	2.9%	3.2%
Morris	0.9%	0.9%	0.8%
Ocean	3.6%	3.3%	3.0%
Passaic	11.7%	10.0%	8.4%
Salem	1.2%	1.3%	1.3%
Somerset	1.2%	1.2%	1.3%
Sussex	0.6%	0.5%	0.6%
Union	4.7%	5.1%	5.2%
Warren	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%
<b>Total NJ</b>	<b>40,629</b>	<b>40,609</b>	<b>38,398</b>

# Income

## Families Receiving SNAP, by County (2010-2012)

Municipality	2012	2011	2010
Atlantic	4.9%	4.7%	4.5%
Bergen	4.5%	4.6%	4.6%
Burlington	3.3%	3.2%	3.2%
Camden	8.7%	8.5%	8.8%
Cape May	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%
Cumberland	3.7%	3.9%	4.0%
Essex	15.1%	15.6%	17.5%
Gloucester	2.8%	2.8%	2.6%
Hudson	12.9%	12.8%	12.9%
Hunterdon	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%
Mercer	4.0%	3.9%	4.1%
<b>Middlesex</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>5.5%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>
Monmouth	3.7%	3.6%	3.5%
Morris	1.8%	1.8%	1.6%
Ocean	5.8%	6.4%	5.5%
Passaic	11.8%	11.5%	11.5%
Salem	1.0%	1.1%	1.1%
Somerset	1.4%	1.4%	1.3%
Sussex	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%
Union	5.4%	5.3%	5.3%
Warren	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%
<b>Total NJ</b>	<b>796,093</b>	<b>723,887</b>	<b>589,546</b>

### Main Points:

1. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly known as “food stamps”) is the primary public source of nutrition and food assistance for low-income families.
2. In February 2012, 44,581 Middlesex County residents received SNAP benefits, a 52% increase from the 29,477 residents who received SNAP benefits in February 2010.

Source: N.J. Department of Human Services

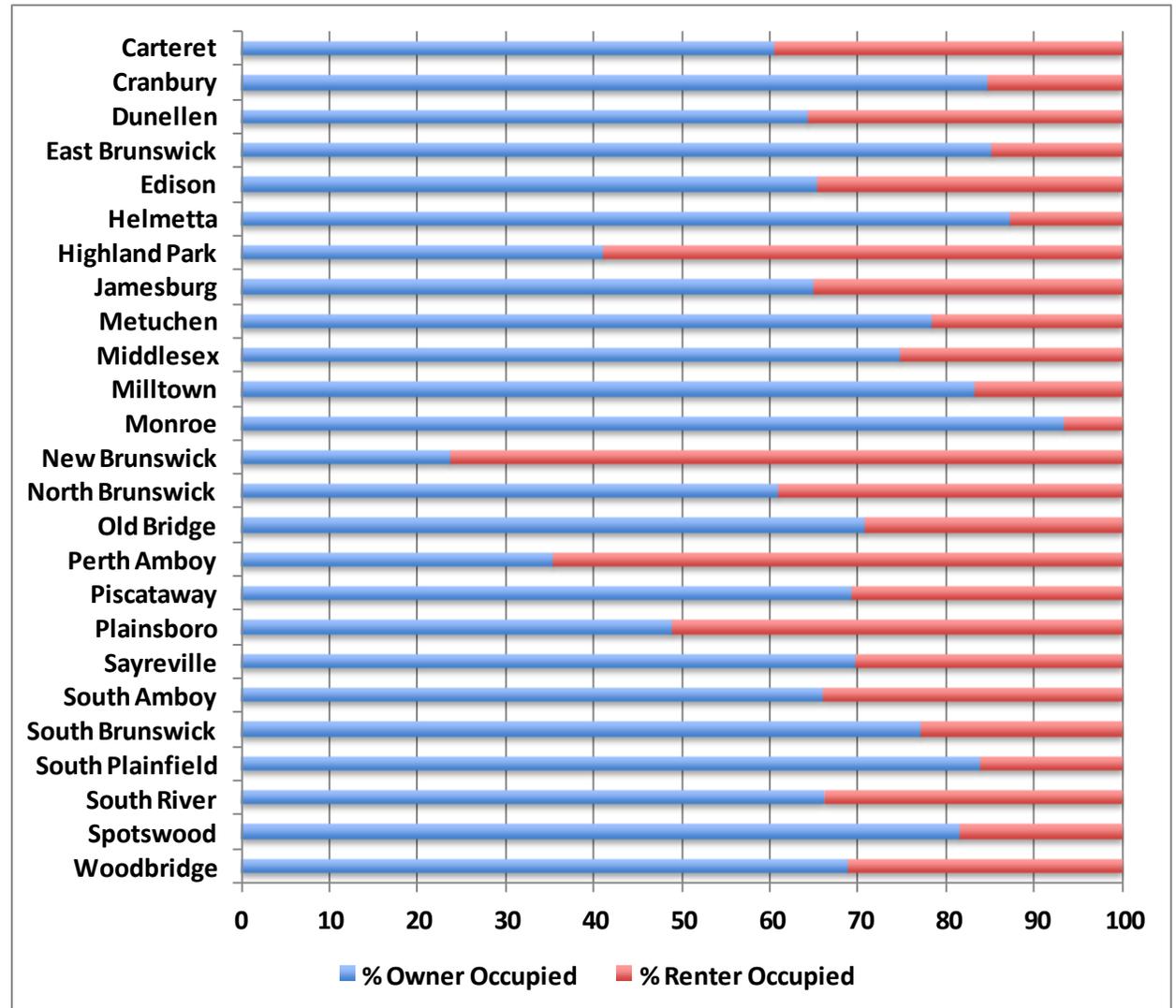
# Income

## Main Points:

1. The majority of housing in Middlesex County in 2010 consisted of owner-occupied units.
2. Among the Middlesex County municipalities, New Brunswick had the largest percentage of housing units that were rentals (76%). Renter-occupied units exceeded 50% in Perth Amboy, Highland Park and Plainsboro.
3. In general, fewer than 5% of Middlesex County's housing units were vacant in 2010. Municipalities with the highest percentage of vacant housing units included Monroe (8.4%), Carteret (6.8%), Plainsboro (6.8%) and South Amboy (5.7%).

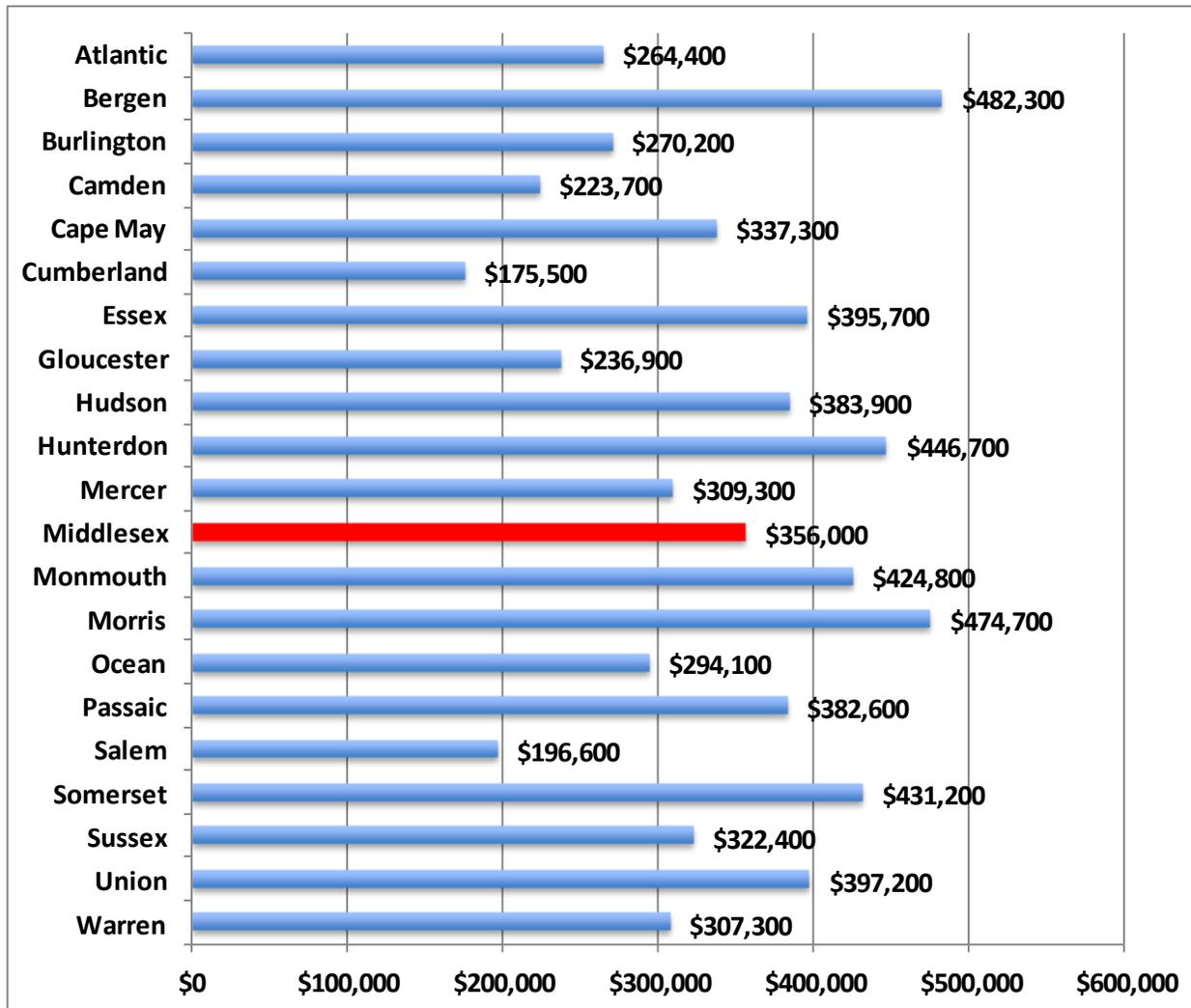
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Housing Types by Municipality (2010)



# Income

## Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing Units, by County (2010)



### Main Points:

1. The median value of owner-occupied housing units in Middlesex County was \$356,000 in 2010, slightly lower than the New Jersey average (\$357,000).
2. The median value of owner-occupied housing units in Middlesex County increased 112% between 2000 and 2010, from \$168,500 to \$356,000.

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau*

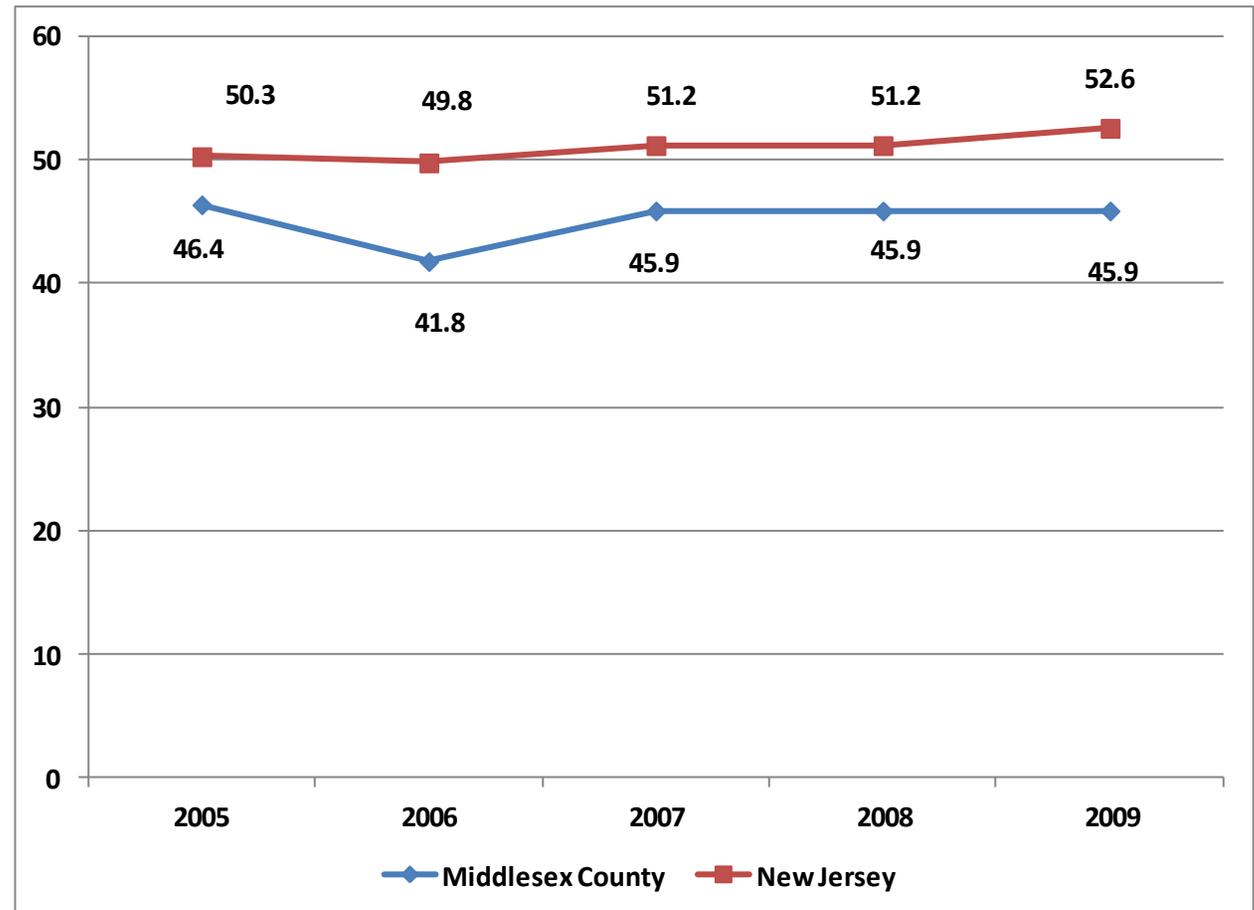
# Income

## Main Points:

1. Cost-burdened renters are defined as renters who spend more than 30% of their income on rental expenses.
2. Between 2005 and 2009, the percentage of Middlesex County renters who were cost-burdened decreased slightly from 46.4% to 45.9%.
3. The number of cost-burdened renters in Middlesex County grew from 38,267 in 2005 to 39,838 in 2009, a 5% increase.

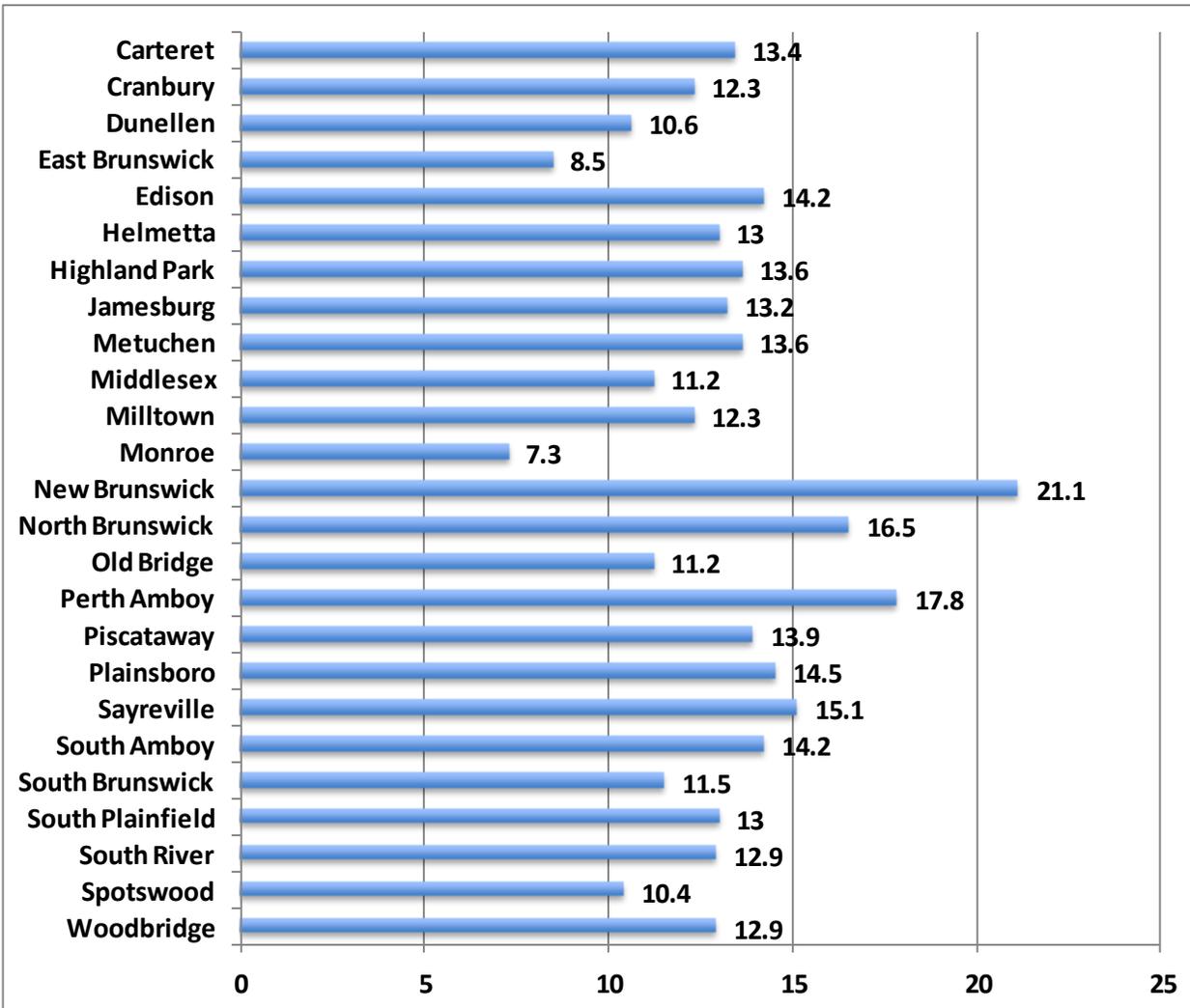
Source: Legal Services of New Jersey  
Poverty Research Institute

## Percentage of Cost-Burdened Renters, Middlesex County (2005-2009)



# Health

## Birth Rate per 1,000 Residents, by Municipality (2008)



### Main Points:

1. New Brunswick (21.1), Perth Amboy (17.8), North Brunswick (16.5) and Sayreville (15.1) had the highest birth rates per 1,000 residents in 2008 among municipalities in Middlesex County.
2. The lowest birth rates among Middlesex County municipalities in 2008 were in Monroe (7.3) and East Brunswick (8.5).
3. Among other things, birth rates are influenced by the average age of the population. Municipalities with the highest median ages tend to have the lowest birth rates.

Source: N.J. Department of Health and Senior Services

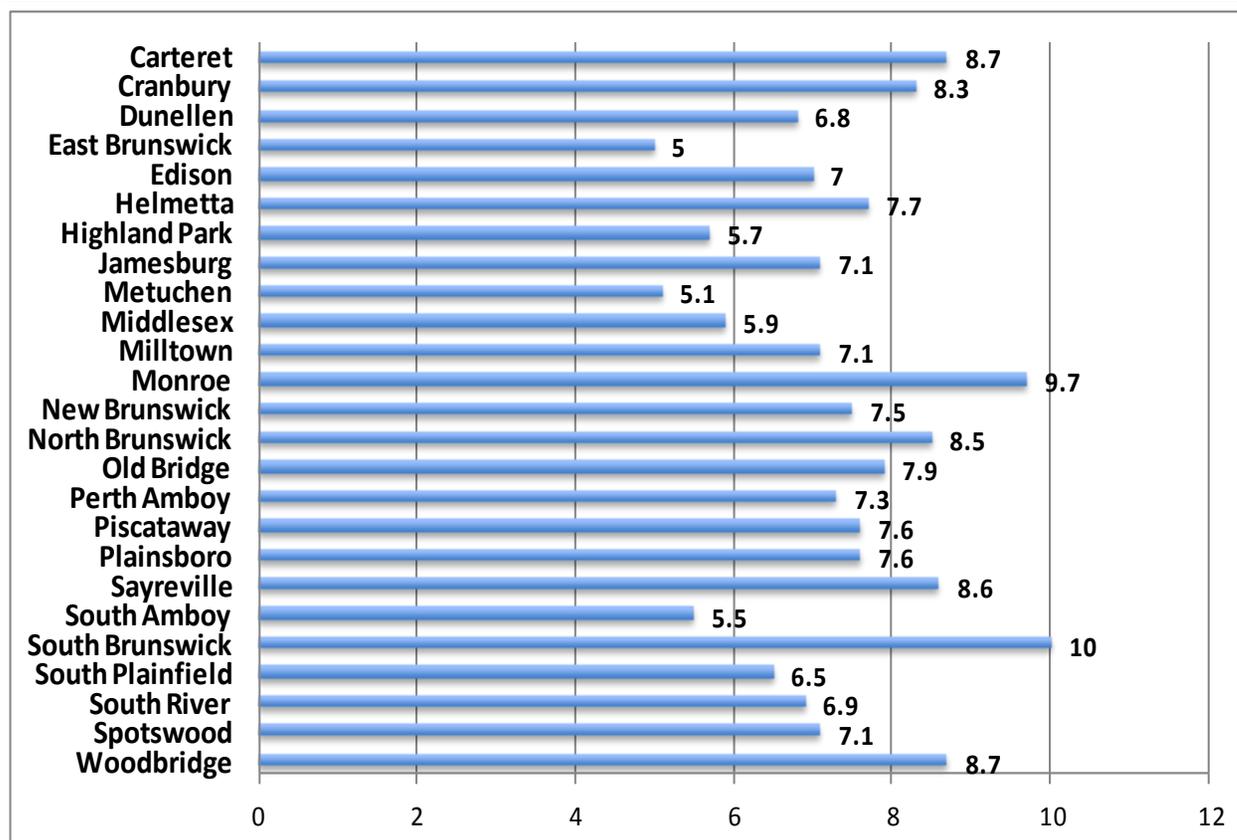
# Health

## Main Points:

1. Low birth weight is defined as weighing less than 2,500 grams (5.5 lbs.) at birth. Nationally, about 8.2 percent of all babies are born at a low birth weight.
2. The percentage of babies born at low birth weight exceeded the national average in 7 out of 25 Middlesex County municipalities.
3. South Brunswick (10), Monroe (9.7), Carteret (8.7), and Woodbridge (8.7) had the highest percentages of low weight births.

Source: N.J. Department of Health and Senior Services

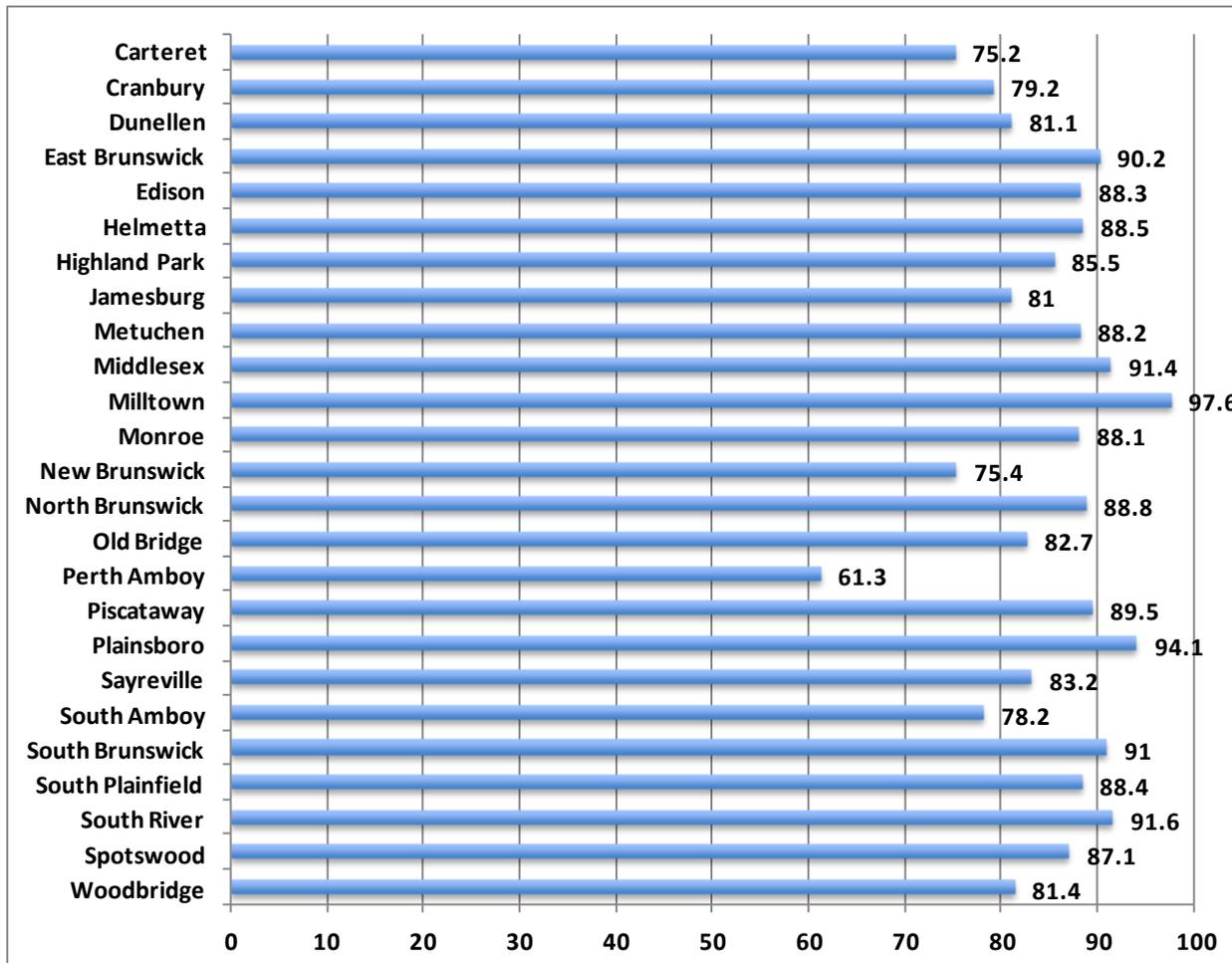
## Percentage Low Birth Weight Infants, by Municipality (2008)



*The primary cause of low birth weight is premature birth (before 37 weeks of gestation). Since much of a baby's weight is gained during the latter part of pregnancy, being born early means that a baby has less time to grow and gain weight. Other factors that contribute to low birth weight include race (African-American babies are more likely to be low birth weight), maternal age (teen mothers are more likely to give birth to low birth weight babies), multiple births and the mother's health (exposure to drugs, alcohol and cigarettes contribute to low birth weight babies). Complications for low birth weight can include cerebral palsy, blindness, deafness and mental retardation (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, 2012).*

# Health

## Percent Receiving Early Prenatal Care, by Municipality (2008)



Prenatal care visits are important for the health of both infant and mother. Among other things, health care providers can educate mothers on important health issues and provide guidance on caring for a newborn child. Best practices recommend that pregnant women begin receiving prenatal care during the first trimester of their pregnancy. Research has found that women who seek prenatal care early in their pregnancy are more likely to have higher incomes and intended pregnancies (Child Trends, 2012).

### Main Points:

1. The percentage of women who received prenatal care beginning in the first trimester of pregnancy in 2008 ranged from 61.3 in Perth Amboy to 97.6% in Milltown.
2. Reflecting national research on prenatal care habits, communities with lower median household incomes generally have lower rates of early prenatal care than communities with higher median household incomes.

Source: N.J. Department of Health and Senior Services

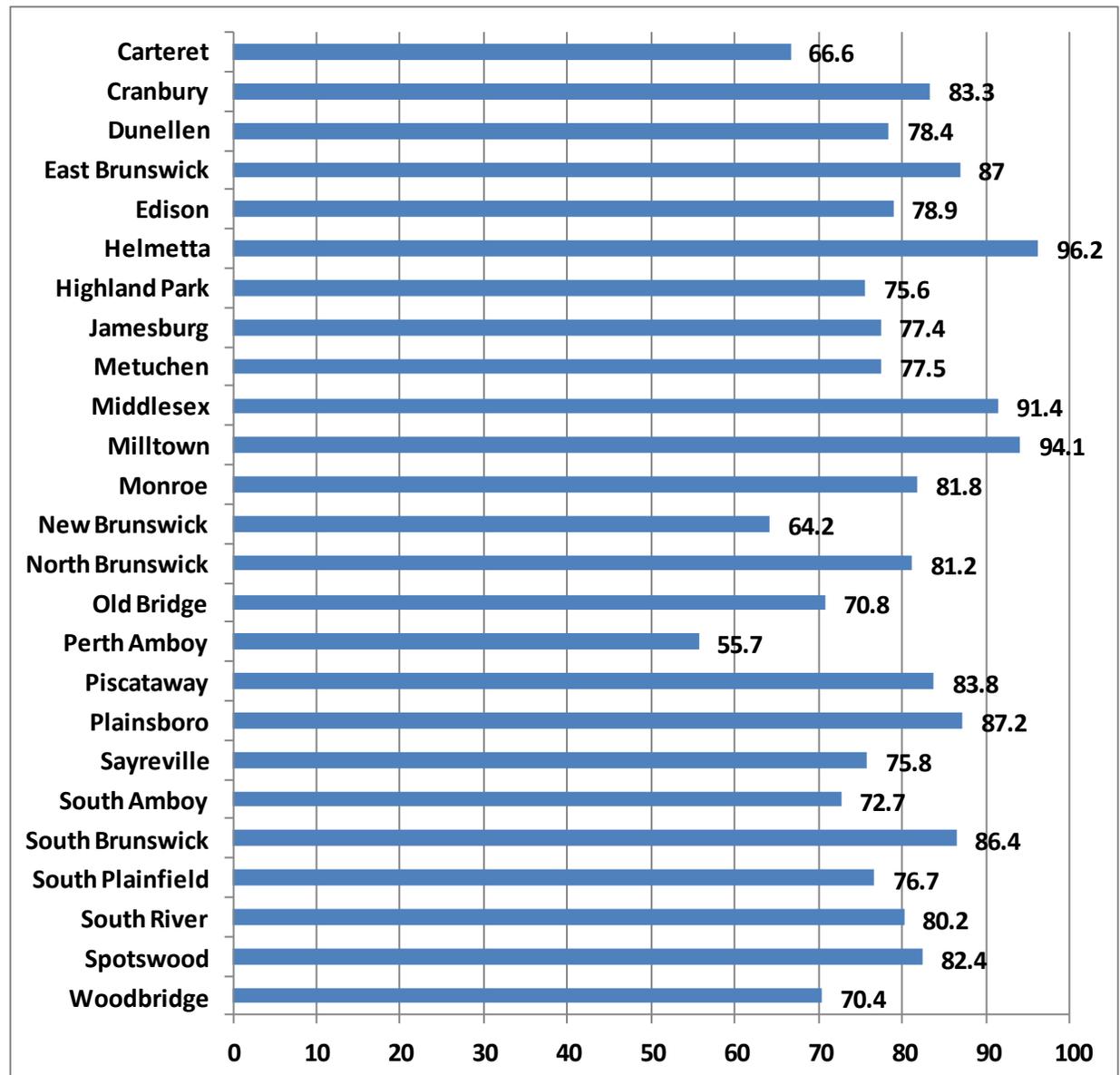
# Health

## Main Points:

1. The percentage of women receiving adequate prenatal care in 2008 ranged from 55.7% in Perth Amboy to 96.2% in Helmetta.
2. Women in lower-income municipalities were the least likely to receive adequate prenatal care (Carteret, Perth Amboy, New Brunswick).

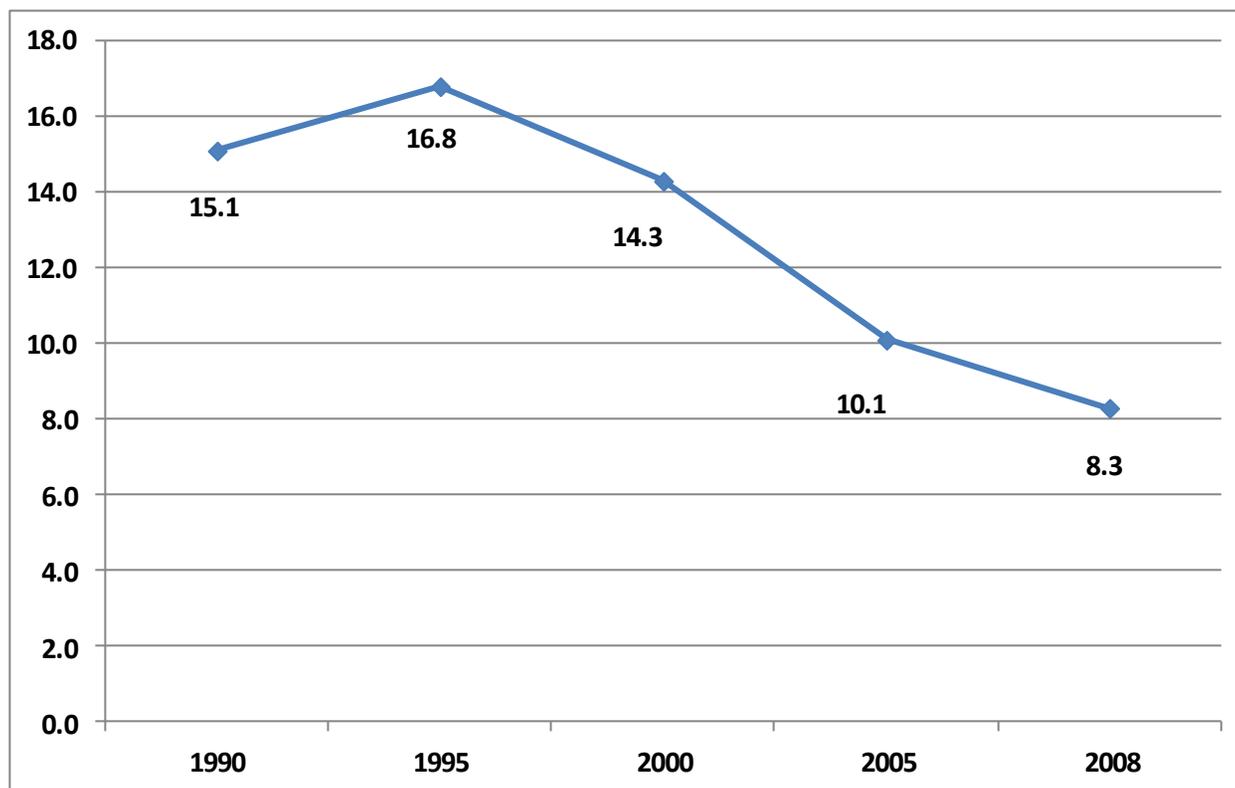
Source: N.J. Department of Health and Senior Services

## Middlesex County Births Receiving Adequate Prenatal Care (2008)



# Health

## Birth Rate for Middlesex County Teens Ages 15-19 (1990-2008)



Teenage girls who are pregnant are at risk of not getting adequate prenatal care, particularly in the first months of pregnancy and, as a result, often miss out on critical screenings for medical problems in both the mother and the baby. In addition, pregnant teens are at a higher risk of developing pregnancy-induced hypertension, preeclampsia, premature birth, low birth weight babies and postpartum depression. Compared to national statistics, New Jersey has a lower birth rate (25 births per 1,000) than the national average (41.5 births per 1,000).

### Main Points:

1. The birth rate for teenagers between the ages of 15 and 19 dropped significantly in Middlesex County between 1990 and 2008.
2. After peaking at 16.8 births per 1,000 females ages 15 to 17 in the population in 1995, the birth rate has declined to 8.3 births per 1,000 in 2008.

Source: N.J. Department of Health and Senior Services

# Health

## Main Points:

1. In 2010, 1,644 Middlesex County adult residents were admitted to a substance abuse treatment program for alcohol abuse and 2,417 were admitted to treatment for drug abuse.
2. New Brunswick (510 treatment admissions), Woodbridge (410 treatment admissions) and Edison (393 treatment admissions) accounted for more than 33% of all treatment admissions.
3. South Amboy (26.6), Helmetta (15.1) and Jamesburg (14.3) accounted for the highest treatment admission rates per 1,000 population.

## Adult Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions by Municipality (2010)

Municipality	Alcohol		Drugs		Total	
	Number	Rate per 1,000	Number	Rate per 1,000	Number	Rate per 1,000
Carteret	52	3.0	97	5.7	149	8.7
Cranbury	17	6.1	7	2.5	24	8.6
Dunellen	23	4.2	20	3.6	43	7.8
East Brunswick	91	2.5	96	2.7	187	5.2
Edison	181	2.3	212	2.7	393	5.1
Helmetta	8	4.6	18	10.4	26	15.1
Highland Park	24	2.2	32	2.9	56	5.1
Jamesburg	33	7.5	30	6.8	63	14.3
Metuchen	33	3.2	47	4.6	80	7.8
Middlesex	49	4.6	84	7.9	133	12.6
Milltown	22	4.1	33	6.1	55	10.2
Monroe	53	1.7	88	2.8	141	4.4
New Brunswick	171	3.9	339	7.8	510	11.7
North Brunswick	83	2.7	102	3.3	185	5.9
Old Bridge	121	2.4	146	2.9	267	5.3
Perth Amboy	99	2.7	228	6.2	327	8.9
Piscataway	83	1.9	102	2.3	185	4.1
Plainsboro	41	2.4	22	1.3	63	3.6
Sayreville	77	2.3	98	3.0	175	5.3
South Amboy	68	10.0	114	16.7	182	26.6
South Brunswick	45	1.4	58	1.8	103	3.3
South Plainfield	39	2.2	58	3.2	97	5.4
South River	64	5.2	80	6.5	144	11.6
Spotswood	21	3.2	42	6.4	63	9.7
Woodbridge	146	1.9	264	3.4	410	5.3

# Health

## Youth Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions by Municipality (2010)

Municipality	Alcohol		Drugs		Total	
	Number	Rate per 1,000	Number	Rate per 1,000	Number	Rate per 1,000
Carteret			2	0.3	2	0.3
Cranbury	2	1.9	3	2.9	5	4.8
Dunellen	1	0.6	3	1.7	4	2.3
East Brunswick			4	0.3	4	0.3
Edison			14	0.6	14	0.6
Helmetta			3	6.6	3	6.6
Highland Park			2	0.7	2	0.7
Jamesburg			5	3.3	5	3.3
Metuchen	1	0.3	1	0.3	2	0.6
Middlesex	3	1.0	9	2.9	12	3.9
Milltown						0.0
Monroe	1	0.1	5	0.7	6	0.8
New Brunswick	2	0.2	13	1.1	15	1.3
North Brunswick	2	0.2	10	1.0	12	1.3
Old Bridge	3	0.2	20	1.3	23	1.5
Perth Amboy	2	0.1	8	0.6	10	0.7
Piscataway	1	0.1	4	0.4	5	0.4
Plainsboro			2	0.4	2	0.4
Sayreville	3	0.3	4	0.4	7	0.7
South Amboy	1	0.6	1	0.6	2	1.1
South Brunswick	3	0.2	7	0.6	10	0.8
South Plainfield			3	0.6	3	0.6
South River	2	0.6			2	0.6
Spotswood			3	1.7	3	1.7
Woodbridge	3	0.1	5	0.2	8	0.4

### Main Points:

1. In 2010, 30 Middlesex County youth residents were admitted to a substance abuse treatment program for alcohol abuse and 131 were admitted to treatment for drug abuse.
2. Old Bridge (23 treatment admissions), New Brunswick (15 treatment admissions) and Edison (14 treatment admissions) accounted for more than 42% of all youth treatment admissions.
3. Helmetta (6.6), Cranbury (4.8), and Middlesex (3.9) had the highest treatment admission rates per 1,000 population.

Source: N.J. Department of Human Services

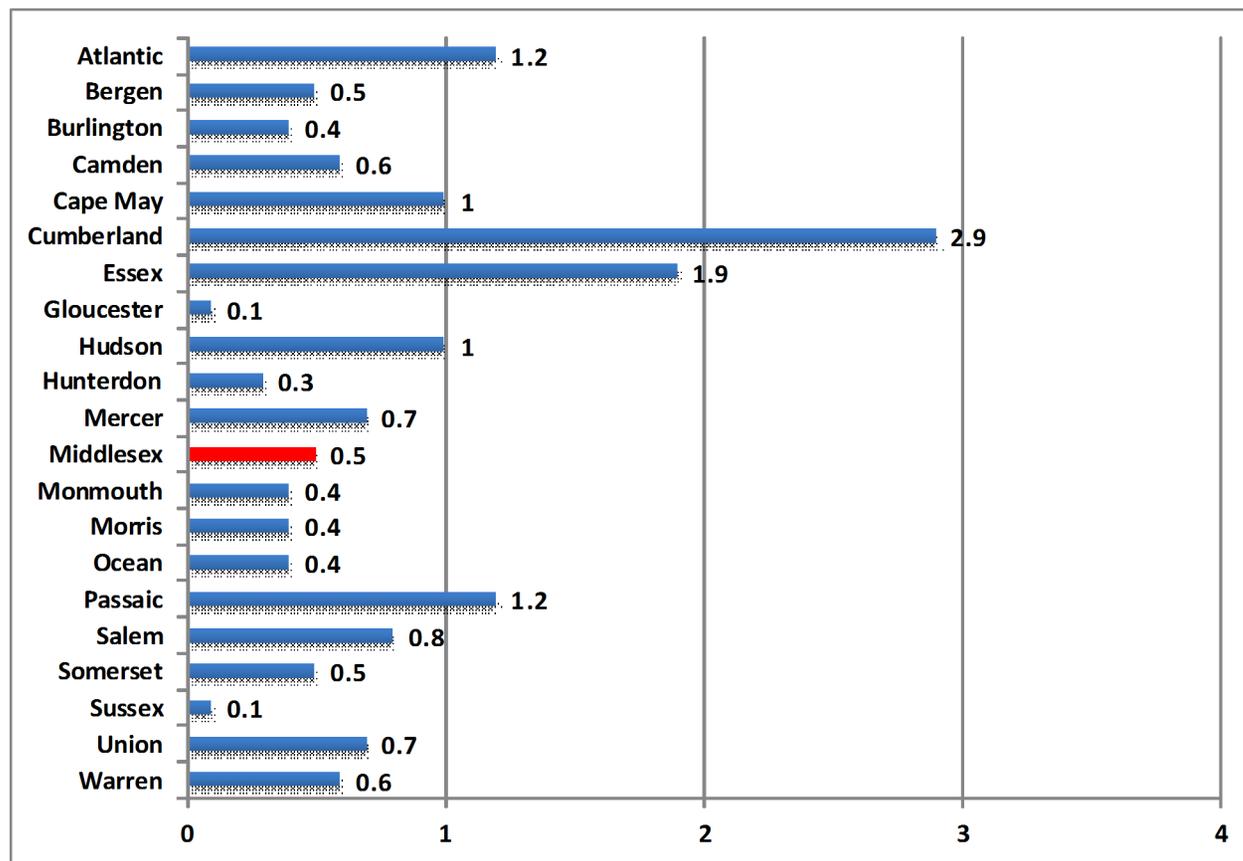
# Health

## Main Points:

1. The high percentage of housing units build before 1980 (70%) puts Middlesex County children at greater risk for ingesting lead through their environment. (Statewide 30.2% of housing units were built before 1950.)
2. In 2010, 34.5% of Middlesex County children ages 6 to 29 months received blood lead level screenings, compared to an average of 45.6% of children statewide.
3. Of the 6,790 Middlesex County children ages 6 to 29 months screened in 2010, 55 (less than 1%) were found to have an elevated blood lead level.

Source: N.J. Department of Health and Senior Services

## Percent of Children with Elevated Blood Lead Level by County (2010)



Lead is a heavy metal that has been widely used in industrial processes and consumer products. When absorbed into the human body, lead adversely affects the blood, kidneys and nervous system. Lead's effects on the central nervous system can include learning disabilities, hyperactivity, decreased hearing, mental retardation and possible death. Lead is particularly hazardous to young children because their neurological system and organs are still developing. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have set the threshold of 10ug/dL as the acceptable blood lead level limit. State law requires that children be screened for lead exposure between the ages of 6 and 20 months.

# Health

## Residents Living with HIV/AIDS, as of Dec. 31, 2010

Diagnostic Status	Males		Females		Total	
	Cases	Percent	Cases	Percent	Cases	Percent
HIV (not AIDS)	533	42	324	43	857	42
AIDS – Immunologic	507	40	318	42	825	41
AIDS – All Others	220	17	115	15	335	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>1260</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>100</b>

## Middlesex County Communities with Highest Cumulative HIV/AIDS Cases as of December 31, 2010

Community	Cases	Community	Cases
Carteret	67	Sayreville	79
Edison	197	Piscataway	135
Woodbridge	230	Perth Amboy	290
New Brunswick	387	Old Bridge	58

## Main Points:

1. As of December 31, 2010, 2,107 Middlesex County residents were living with HIV or AIDS.
2. Of the 2,017 people living with HIV/AIDS in Middlesex County, 42% were living with HIV, and 58% were living with AIDS.
3. The Middlesex County communities with the highest cumulative number of HIV/AIDS cases as of December 31, 2010 included New Brunswick, Perth Amboy and Woodbridge.

Source: N.J. Department of Health and Senior Services

# Health

## **Main Points:**

1. The New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) received reports of suspected abuse or neglect on 6,224 Middlesex County children during the 2011 calendar year. About 10% of these reports were substantiated after investigation.
2. South Amboy (87.4), New Brunswick (85.1), and Jamesburg (71.5) had the highest number of reports per 1,000 child population.

*Source: N.J. Department of Children and Families*

## **Child Maltreatment Reports by Municipality, 2011**

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Number of Children</b>	<b>Report Rate per 1,000</b>	<b>Number Substantiated</b>	<b>Percent Substantiated</b>
Carteret	281	48.5	29	10.3%
Cranbury	14	13.3	0	0.0%
Dunellen	61	35.6	6	9.8%
East Brunswick	528	46.1	51	9.7%
Edison	596	26.3	39	6.5%
Helmetta	17	37.5	0	0.0%
Highland Park	71	24.0	4	5.6%
Jamesburg	107	71.5	7	6.5%
Metuchen	64	19.5	4	6.3%
Middlesex	87	28.4	17	19.5%
Milltown	43	28.6	9	20.9%
Monroe	109	14.8	8	7.3%
New Brunswick	989	85.1	110	11.1%
North Brunswick	307	32.2	46	15.0%
Old Bridge	40	2.7	3	7.5%
Perth Amboy	810	58.4	61	7.5%
Piscataway	298	26.4	36	12.1%
Plainsboro	74	13.0	3	4.1%
Sayreville	336	34.8	30	8.9%
South Amboy	157	87.4	13	8.3%
South Brunswick	220	18.3	20	9.1%
South Plainfield	121	22.5	17	14.0%
South River	175	48.4	8	4.6%
Spotswood	66	37.9	1	1.5%
Woodbridge	653	30.3	48	7.4%