



**Adirondack Community
Action Programs, Inc.**



**Community
Assessment
Update**

**2023
Essex County,
New York**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
Purpose and Methodology.....	4
Key Findings	5
DEMOGRAPHICS.....	7
Population.....	7
Race and Ethnicity	7
Primary Language	8
Age.....	8
EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION.....	9
Pre-Kindergarten	9
Child Care	10
BIRTH OUTCOMES AND PREGNANT WOMEN	11
DISABILITIES	12
ECONOMIC WELL-BEING	13
Wages.....	13
Income.....	14
Inflation	15
Consumer Price Index.....	15
POVERTY	16
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE	17
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).....	17
Supplemental Security Insurance (SSI)	18
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).....	19
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).....	20
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT	21
HEALTH AND WELLNESS	22
County Health Rankings	22
Obesity	23
HOMELESSNESS.....	24

HOUSING.....25
FOOD INSECURITY26
TRANSPORTATION27
COMMUNITY RESOURCES28
REFERENCES28

Prepared by Spiridis Consulting LLC www.RSpiridisConsulting.com

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE AND METHODOLOGY

Adirondack Community Action Programs, Inc. (ACAP) in Essex County, New York conducted a comprehensive Community Assessment in 2022 per Head Start Standard 1302.11. The 2023 Community Assessment Update serves as an addendum and reflects the following: 1) significant changes to demographics and health, economic, and social conditions; 2) changed early childhood and child care information; 3) notable data trends; and 4) pandemic impacts on children and families.

The Community Assessment and annual updates inform decisions by leadership and governing bodies including, but not limited to:

- ◆ Determination of long- and short-range program goals, objectives, and priorities;
- ◆ Types of services most needed for pregnant women, children, and families living in poverty;
- ◆ Gaps in service and geographic areas to be served, if additional funding is available, or if limitations in resources make it impossible to serve the entire service area;
- ◆ Locations of Early Head Start and Head Start services;
- ◆ Criteria to define and prioritize special populations for recruitment and selection for services;
- ◆ Community collaborations to develop, strengthen, and provide responsive programming; and
- ◆ Identification of and reduction of inequities within communities.

* The ACS is an official Census Bureau survey that is part of the decennial census program. Every year, the Census Bureau contacts over 3.5 million households nationwide to take part in the ACS, sending the survey to a percentage of households monthly. The ACS survey collects and produces information on social, economic, housing, and demographic characteristics about the U.S. population. The Census Bureau uses these data sets to track shifting demographics and learn about local communities.¹

Spiridis Consulting uses 5-Year ACS estimates rather than 1-Year Estimates, due to smaller margins of error.

Community data may occasionally be missing or skewed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



KEY FINDINGS

The following are Key Findings from the 2023 Community Assessment Update. Areas that impact families (e.g., poverty, early education, disabilities, health, housing, birth outcomes, transportation) have been reviewed for significant, updated, or newly available data. For areas not addressed in this update, the most recent data can be found in the 2022 Community Assessment Update.

CHILDREN IN POVERTY

In Essex County an estimated 207 or 14.9% of children under age five are living in poverty. Approximately 124 infants/toddlers and 83 three- and four-year-olds are in poverty.

Young Children in Poverty by Age Group—Essex County

Children Under Age 5			Infants and Toddlers		3- and 4-Year Olds	
# of Children	# in Poverty	% in Poverty	Total*	# in Poverty	Total*	# in Poverty
1,391	207	14.9%	835	124	556	83

*Estimated infants/toddlers (60%) and 3- & 4-Year-olds (40%) Source: American Community, 2021 Five-Year Estimates

NEED FOR QUALITY, AFFORDABLE CARE

There is a continued need for both Early Head Start and Head Start in Essex County due to limited, quality and affordable care for infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children.

- Essex County PreK enrollment was reported by the NY Department of Education as 170 slots (26 half-day, 144 full day) during 2022-23. Approximately 85% of PreK slots were for 4-year-olds, showing the continued need for Head Start to serve three-year-olds living in poverty.
- There are only 4 child care centers in Essex County, not including Head Start or Pre-K. These 4 child care centers have capacity for only 28 infants, 39 toddlers, and 63 preschoolers, totaling 130 slots. Essex County also has 20 Family Care programs with a capacity of 200 children ages 6 weeks – 12 years.

WAGES AND THE IMPACT ON HEAD START ELIGIBILITY

In New York—excluding NYC, Long Island, and Westchester—the 2023 minimum wage increased to \$14.20/hr. Increased wages impact HS/EHS eligibility, particularly for full-time (FT) working families. While rising wages are positive, they may preclude low-income families from automatically qualifying for assistance programs—such as Head Start—during an economically challenging period.

Working Families

Household Composition	Federal Poverty Level (FPL)	Salary at NY State Minimum Wage (FT Employee)	Hourly Wage Exceeds FPL (FT Employee)
Family of 2 (1 FT Working Adult)	\$19,720	\$29,536	Minimum Wage
Family of 3 (1 FT Working Adult)	\$24,860	\$29,536	Minimum Wage
Family of 4 (1 FT Working Adult)	\$30,000	\$29,536	\$14.43/hour

As shown on the previous page, a FT working adult with a family of two or three members who earns minimum wage is above the Federal Poverty Level. A FT working adult with a family of four who earns \$14.43/hour or more is above the FPL. Yet, Essex County's 2023 living wage for a family with one working adult ranges from \$32 - \$42/hour. These minimum wage-earning families make just 34% - 44% of the living wage—putting the cost of quality child care out of reach. ACAP's annual Community Assessment Updates and Program Information Reports will guide eligibility categorization and program planning (e.g., TANF rates increasing again, SNAP rates increasing slightly, SSI rates decreasing) to both support working families living just above the poverty level and to remain fully enrollment.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

In March 2020, Congress increased SNAP benefits during the pandemic. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 ended such allotments. SNAP benefits returned to standard amounts in March 2023. During PY 2021-22, 48% or 59 ACAP families were receiving SNAP at enrollment. Many families have been impacted by the decrease in SNAP benefits and food insecurity is likely to rise.

FOOD INSECURITY

The 2021 child food insecurity rate was 11% in Essex County, a decrease of 6% from 2019. Massive public/private response to hunger during the pandemic was successful in mitigating food insecurity rates nationwide. While food insecurity for Essex County's overall population decreased by 2.1% between 2019 and 2021, the divide across racial and ethnic lines remained. Among the Hispanic population, food insecurity was 17%, while food insecurity among the non-Hispanic White population was 6%.

BIRTH OUTCOMES

Key findings regarding Essex County's birth outcome data from the NYS Department of Health include:

- During the 3-year period of 2018-2020, there were 875 births, averaging 291 births annually.
- Of births, 35.2% were to mothers on Medicaid or with no insurance.
- 63.9% of births in Essex County were to un-married parents, compared to 38% in New York.
- The teen birth rate per 1,000 in Essex County was 10.1, compared to 10.4 per 1,000 in New York.
- There are an estimated 102 income-eligible pregnant women in Essex County.

EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKFORCE

In February 2023, the National Head Start Association surveyed grantees about workforce struggles. Results from almost 200 grantees represented about 10% of children and families served. Twenty percent of HS/EHS classrooms were closed, of which 81% of grantees cited staff vacancies as the primary reason. Of positions, 19% were vacant nationwide. The top reason for vacancies was compensation, at 65%. Of grantees, 81% reported that staff vacancies were higher than usual. There were up to 275K children on HS/EHS waiting lists, equating to up to 33% of funded slots. Turnover included not only lead teachers but also other HS staff who left for entry-level jobs that pay more and offer better benefits.

DEMOGRAPHICS

POPULATION

Essex County's population decreased by 1,989 people or 5.1% between 2010 and 2020, compared to a 4.3% increase in New York. Essex County's 2021 estimated population is 37,501. Towns and villages with the highest 2021 populations are Moriah (4,704), North Elba (7,725), Saranac Lake (5,003), and Ticonderoga (4,792).²

Essex County, NY Population

Decennial Population		Population Change 2010-2020		2021 Five-Year Population Estimate
2010	2020	Count	Percent	
39,370	37,381	-1,989	-5.1%	37,501

Source: 2010 and 2020 U.S. Census, American Community Survey 2021 Five-Year Estimates

RACE AND ETHNICITY

Of Essex County's population, 92.3% are White, 3.2% are African American, 2.4% are Multi-racial, and 1.7% identify as an Other Race. The Asian, Native American, and Pacific Islander populations are less than 1% each. Essex County's Hispanic population is 3.2% (1,182 people), significantly lower than New York (19.3%).³

Population by Race/Ethnicity

Location	White	Black	Asian	Native American Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander	Other Race	Multiple Races	Hispanic, All Races
New York	60.7%	15.2%	8.7%	0.4%	0.1%	9.0%	6.0%	19.3%
Essex Co.	92.3%	3.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	1.7%	2.4%	3.2%

Source: American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates

Following were the demographics of enrolled children at ACAP HS/EHS during PY 2021-22: White (93.2%); Black/African American (4.5%); Multi-racial (1.5%); and Native American (0.8%). Of enrolled children, 3.8% were Hispanic/Latino, a slight decrease from 6.8% during PY 2020-21.⁴

Head Start/Early Head Start Children by Race/Ethnicity

Year	White	Black	Asian	Native American Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander	Not Specified	Multiple Races	Hispanic, All Races
2020-21	91.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%	7.4%	6.8%
2021-22	93.2%	4.5%	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%	3.8%

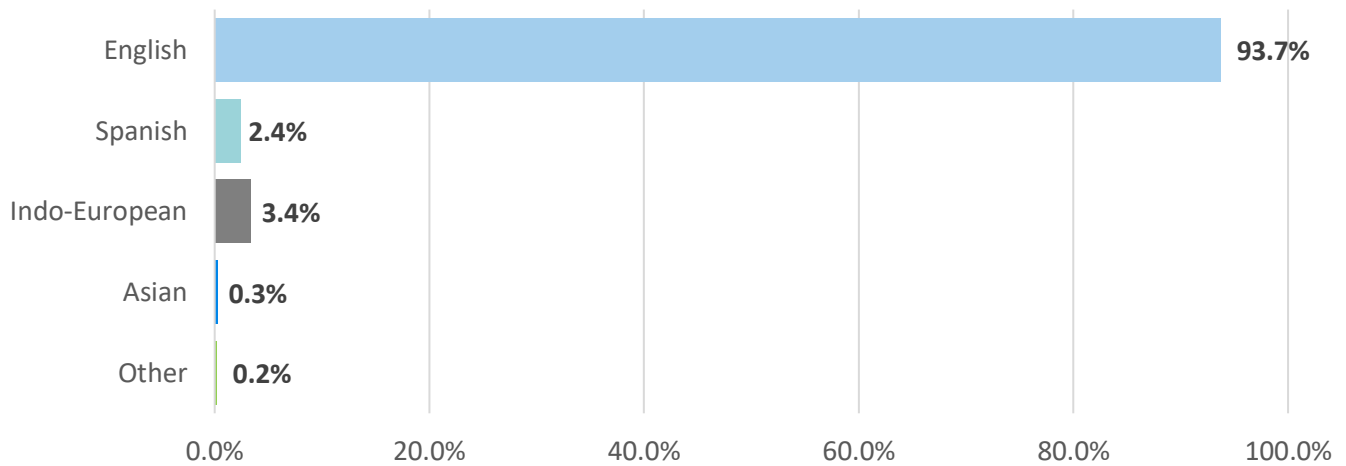
Source: Program Information Reports

PRIMARY LANGUAGE

Of Essex County’s population, 93.7% speak English, 2.4% speak Spanish, 3.4% speak Indo-European languages, .3% speak Asian languages, and .2% speak other languages.⁵ This data is consistent with last year’s data. During PY 2021-22, English was the primary home language of 99.2% of ACAP Head Start/Early Head Start families and Spanish was the primary home language of .8% families.⁶

Primary Languages Spoken in Essex County

Source: American Community Survey, 2017-2021



AGE

Just 3.9% of the population or 1,479 children in Essex County are ages 0-4, less than New York (5.7%).⁷

Population Under Age 5

Location	Count	Percent of Population
New York	1,154,376	5.7%
Essex County, NY	1,479	3.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2021 Five-Year Estimates, Chart S0101

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) is the entry point for public education in New York. The goal is to provide four-year-olds with high quality, research-based instruction that increases the number of children who enter kindergarten prepared to succeed.

Final 2021-22 enrollment data shows that Essex County PreK enrollment was 38 in half-day PreK and 148 in full-day PreK for a total enrollment of 186. *Preliminary* enrollment data for 2022-23 indicates that Essex County PreK enrollment was 26 in half-day PreK and 144 in full-day PreK for a total enrollment of 170.⁸

Pre-K Enrollment by School District in Essex County (SY 2022-2023)

School District	Ages Served	Half-Day Pre-K	Full-Day Pre-K	Total Pre-K
Essex County	3 & 4	26	144	170
Boquet Valley CSD	3 & 4	0	31	31
Crown Point CSD	4	0	20	20
Keene CSD	4	0	2	2
Lake Placid CSD	4	0	29	29
Newcomb	4	0	2	2
Minerva CSD	4	3	0	3
Moriah CSD	4	0	32	32
Schroon Lake	4	0	10	10
Ticonderoga CSD	4	23	0	23
Willsboro CSD	4	0	18	18

Source: New York State Education Department

CHILD CARE

In Essex County, there are only 4 child care centers (Ray Brook, Saranac Lake, Willsboro), not including Head Start or Pre-K slots. These 4 child care centers have capacity to serve 28 infants, 39 toddlers, and 63 preschoolers, totaling 130 slots for children ages 0-5.⁹

Essex County has 10 Family Day Care programs in 7 towns with a capacity of 60 children, as well as 12 Group Family Care programs in 7 towns with a capacity of 140 children; both programs serve children ages 6 weeks – 12 years.¹⁰

Child Care Capacity—Essex County

Location	Child Care Center Capacity			Family Day Care*		Group Family Care*	
	Infants	Toddlers	Preschool	# of Facilities	Capacity	# of Facilities	Capacity
Essex County	28	39	63	10	60	12	140
Bloomingtondale	0	0	0	2	12	0	0
Crown Point	0	0	0	1	6	0	0
Essex	0	0	0	0	0	1	12
Jay	0	0	0	0	0	1	12
Keene Valley	0	0	0	1	6	0	0
Keeseville	0	0	0	2	12	0	0
Lake Placid	0	0	0	1	6	4	48
Lewis	0	0	0	0	0	2	24
Moriah	0	0	0	0	0	1	12
Port Henry	0	0	0	0	0	2	20
Ray Brook	8	15	17	0	0	0	0
Saranac Lake	12	15	35	0	0	0	0
Ticonderoga	0	0	0	1	6	1	12
Westport	0	0	0	2	12	0	0
Willsboro	8	9	11	0	0	0	0

*Includes children up to age 12 Does not include EHS or HS Centers

Sources: NYS Office of Children and Family Services, Child Care Council of Essex, July 2023

BIRTH OUTCOMES AND PREGNANT WOMEN

Following is Essex County's most recent birth outcome data (2018-2020) from the New York State Department of Health:¹¹

- During the 3-year period of 2018-2020, there were 875 births, averaging 291 births annually.
- Of births, 35.2% were to mothers on Medicaid or with no insurance.
- 10.1% of births in Essex County were premature, compared to 11.1% in New York.
- 7.1% of births in Essex County had low-birth weights, compared to 8.1% in New York.
- 63.9% of births in Essex County were to un-married parents, compared to 38% in New York.
- The infant mortality rate in Essex County was 3.4%, compared to 4.2% in New York.
- The teen birth rate per 1,000 in Essex County was 10.1, compared to 10.4 per 1,000 in New York.
- There are an estimated 102 income-eligible pregnant women in Essex County.

Birth Outcomes, 2018-2020

Zip Code	Location	Births 2018-2020 (3 Years)	Percent of Births				
			Premature Birth	Low Birth Weight	Un-Married Parent	Medicaid Or Self-Pay	Late or No Prenatal Care
	New York State	653,288	11.1	8.1	38.0	48.6	5.3
	NYS Excluding NYC	346,316	11.0	7.7	38.3	40.0	4.3
	New York City	306,972	11.1	8.5	37.7	58.3	6.5
	Essex County	875	10.1	7.1	63.9	35.2	7.4
12870	Schroon Lake	35	14.3	11.4	17.1	17.1	2.9
12883	Ticonderoga	77	10.5	6.5	64.9	20.0	6.6
12913	Bloomington	20	5.0	5.0	40.0	15.0	5.0
12928	Crown Point	15	13.3	6.7	53.3	35.7	6.7
12932	Elizabethtown	17	5.9	5.9	41.2	23.5	11.8
12936	Essex	14	15.4	14.3	42.9	84.6	15.4
12941	Jay	28	0.0	7.1	39.3	29.6	11.1
12944	Keeseville	101	9.9	5.9	58.4	53.5	12.9
12946	Lake Placid	106	8.5	1.9	45.3	32.1	3.8
12950	Lewis	14	0.0	0.0	57.1	28.6	7.1
12956	Mineville	28	0.0	0.0	60.7	42.9	14.3
12960	Moriah	13	0.0	0.0	61.5	46.2	0.0
12974	Port Henry	23	19.0	4.3	21.7	57.1	18.2
12993	Westport	49	6.1	8.2	44.9	46.9	18.4
12996	Willsboro	17	17.6	5.9	47.1	35.3	5.9
12997	Wilmington	35	14.3	11.4	17.1	17.1	2.9

Source: New York State Department of Health

DISABILITIES

Early Intervention

The NY State Early Intervention Program provides Part C services under IDEA for families and children birth to age 3 who have a confirmed disability or established developmental delay in one or more of the following areas of development: physical, cognitive, communication, social-emotional, and/or adaptive. In 2021, .6% of children birth to 1 year of age and 3.1% of children birth-three years of age in Essex County received Early Intervention services.¹²

Percent of Children Under Age 3 Served by Early Intervention—Essex County

Age Group	2018	2019	2020	2021
Birth – 1 Year	.7%	.3%	.7%	.6%
Birth – 3 Years	4.1%	3.2%	2.7%	3.1%

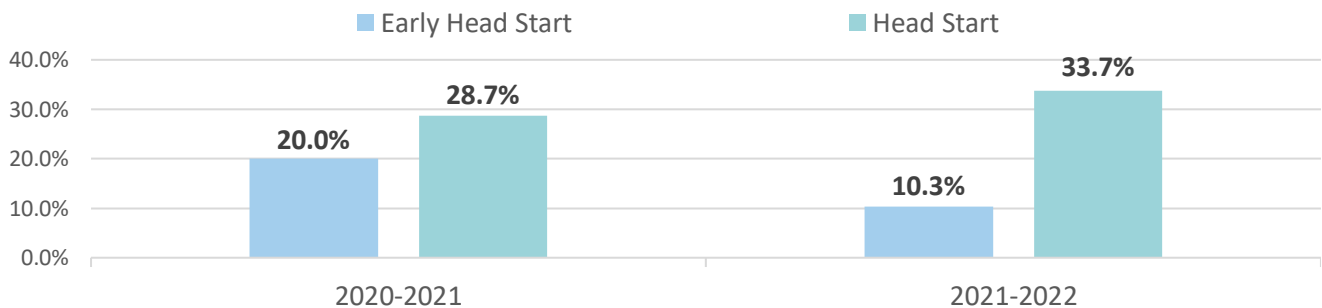
Source: New York State Department of Health

Head Start/Early Head Start

During PY 2021-2022, 10.3% of enrolled ACAP Early Head Start children and 33.7% of ACAP Head Start children had diagnosed disabilities, exceeding the Head Start Program Performance Standard of 10% enrolled children with disabilities. Of enrolled Head Start children, 29.7% were diagnosed with speech/language impairments and 3% were diagnosed with other delays (i.e., health impairment, non-categorical/developmental delay, orthopedic impairment.)¹³

ACAP Early Head Start/Head Start Children with Disabilities

Source: Program Information Reports, 2021-2022



ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

WAGES

Minimum Wage

In New York State—excluding New York City, Long Island, and Westchester—the minimum wage increased from \$13.20/hour to \$14.20/hour on December 31, 2022. The minimum wage in New York City, Long Island, and Westchester is \$15/hour.¹⁴

- The Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for a family of two in Essex County is \$19,720/year; therefore, a single full-time (2,080 hours) working parent of one child who is making minimum wage (\$14.20/hour) earns \$29,536; this is *above* the FPL.
- The FPL for a family of three is \$24,860/year; therefore, a single parent of two children who is working full-time at minimum wage (\$29,536) is *above* the FPL.
- The FPL for a family of four is \$30,000/year; therefore, a household of four with one full-time working adult who is earning minimum wage (\$29,536) is below the FPL and income eligible.¹⁵

Living Wage

Living wage is the hourly rate that a full-time (2,080 hours annually) working individual must earn to adequately support the family and cover day-to-day expenses. The 2023 living wage for one adult and one child is \$32.32 in Essex County. A full-time working adult with one child who is making minimum wage (\$14.20/hour) earns just 43.9% of the living wage.¹⁶

2023 Living Wage—Essex County

1 Adult				2 Adults (1 Working)				2 Adults (Both Working)			
Number of Children				Number of Children				Number of Children			
0	1	2	3	0	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
\$15.76	\$32.32	\$42.33	\$56.36	\$25.15	\$30.54	\$35.42	\$39.75	\$12.57	\$18.11	\$23.39	\$28.40

Notes: 1) For this model, the assumption is that the sole provider is working full-time (2080 hours per year). 2) For two adult families where one adult is not in the labor force, one of the adults is assumed to be employed full-time while the other non-wage-earning adult provides full-time childcare for the family's children. Source: Massachusetts Institute of Technology

INCOME

- The median household income in Essex County is \$61,563, lower than New York (\$75,157).
- Of households, 16.9% in Essex County earn under \$25,000, compared to New York (18%).
- Of households in Essex County, median incomes by race/ethnicity are as follows: non-Hispanic White (62,267); Multiracial (\$44,063); and Hispanic/Latino (\$78,365).¹⁷

Mean/Median Household Income

Location	Total Households	Average (Mean) Household Income	Median Household Income
New York	7,530,150	\$111,583	\$75,157
Essex County, NY	15,714	\$80,720	\$61,563

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2021 Five-Year Estimates, S1901

Household Income Levels

Location	Under \$25,000	\$25,000 - \$49,999	\$50,000 - \$99,999	\$100,000 - \$199,999	\$200,000+
New York	18.0%	17.1%	26.6%	25.4%	12.9%
Essex County, NY	16.9%	23.1%	32.5%	22.2%	5.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2021 Five-Year Estimates, S1901

Median Household Income by Race/Ethnicity of Householder

Location	NH White	Black	Asian	AIAN*	NHPI*	Other Race	Multiple Races	Hispanic/Latino
New York	\$85,520	\$53,697	\$83,399	\$50,731	\$49,528	\$49,838	\$68,158	\$55,621
Essex Co.	\$62,267	No data	No data	No data	No data	\$18,565	\$44,063	\$78,365

*NH=Non-Hispanic; AIAN=American Indian Alaska Native; NHPI=Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community, 2021 Five-Year Estimates

INFLATION

The annual U.S. inflation rate was 3% for the 12 months ended June 2023. The 2022 average monthly inflation was 8%—a 40 year high. Since June 2020, prices have risen by a total of 16.9%.¹⁸

U.S. Inflation Rate

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
2023	6.4	6.0	5.0	4.9	4.0	3.0							
2022	7.5	7.9	8.5	8.2	8.6	9.1	8.5	8.3	8.2	7.7	7.1	6.5	8.0
2021	1.4	1.7	2.6	4.2	5.0	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.4	6.2	6.8	7.0	4.7
2020	2.5	2.3	1.5	.3	.1	0.6	1.0	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.2
2019	1.6	1.5	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.8	2.1	2.3	1.8

Source: U.S. Department of Labor

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures the average change in prices paid by consumers for goods and services needed for daily living (e.g., food, shelter, gas). Prices are collected monthly in 75 urban areas nationwide from approximately 6,000 housing units and 22,000 retail establishments (e.g., department stores, supermarkets, gas stations).¹⁹ The annual inflation rate was 3% for the 12 months ended June 2023. Between May 2023 and June 2023, there was a .2% increase in “all items.”²⁰

Consumer Price Index—June 2023

	1-Month Percent Change (From May 2023)	12 Month Percent Change (From June 2022)
All Items	0.2	3.0
Food	0.1	5.7
Food at home	0.0	4.7
Food away from home	0.4	7.7
Energy	0.6	-16.7
Gasoline (all types)	1.0	-26.5
Fuel oil	-0.4	-36.6
Electricity	0.9	5.4
Utility (piped) gas service	-1.7	-18.6
All Items Less Food and Energy	0.2	4.8
Apparel	0.3	3.1
Shelter	0.4	7.8
Transportation services	0.1	8.2
Medical care services	0.0	-0.8

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

POVERTY

The 2021 five-year poverty estimate for children ages 0-4 in Essex County is 14.9%, lower than New York (19.1%) and the U.S. (18.5%). Approximately 1,391 children under age 5 reside in the county, with 207 children (124 infants/toddlers and 83 preschool-aged children) living in poverty. Locations with the highest numbers of poverty for children under age 5 are in Moriah (71) and Mineville (59).²¹

Children under Age Five in Poverty—Essex County

Census Bureau 5-Year Estimates	Children Under Age 5		Infants and Toddlers		3- and 4-Year Olds	
	Count	In Poverty	Count*	In Poverty	Count*	In Poverty
2021	1,391	207 (14.9%)	835	124	556	83
2020	1,469	230 (15.7%)	881	138	588	92
2019	1,449	204 (14.1%)	869	122	580	82

*Estimated infants/toddlers (60%) and 3- & 4-Year-olds (40%) Source: American Community, 2016-2021 5-Year Estimates
Note: Children under age 5 may vary from Age section, as this is the number of children for whom poverty is determined.

Children Under 5 in Poverty—Essex County*

Location	Children Under 5	% of Children in Poverty	# of Children in Poverty
Chesterfield	93	26.9%	25
Crown Point	68	6.6%	5
Jay	62	5.8%	4
Keeseville	91	5.5%	5
Lake Placid	98	16.3%	16
Minerva	41	36.6%	15
Mineville	59	100.0%	59
Moriah	304	23.4%	71
Port Henry	48	25.0%	12
Saranac Lake	276	12.0%	33
Schroon	39	5.1%	2
Ticonderoga	315	14.6%	46
Willsboro	34	14.8%	15

*Locations with 35+ children under age 5 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS, 2021 Five-Year Estimates

2023 Federal Poverty Guidelines

Persons in Family/Household	Poverty Guideline*
1	\$14,580
2	\$19,720
3	\$24,860
4	\$30,000
5	\$35,140
6	\$40,280

* For families/households with more than 6 persons, add \$5,140 for each additional person

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

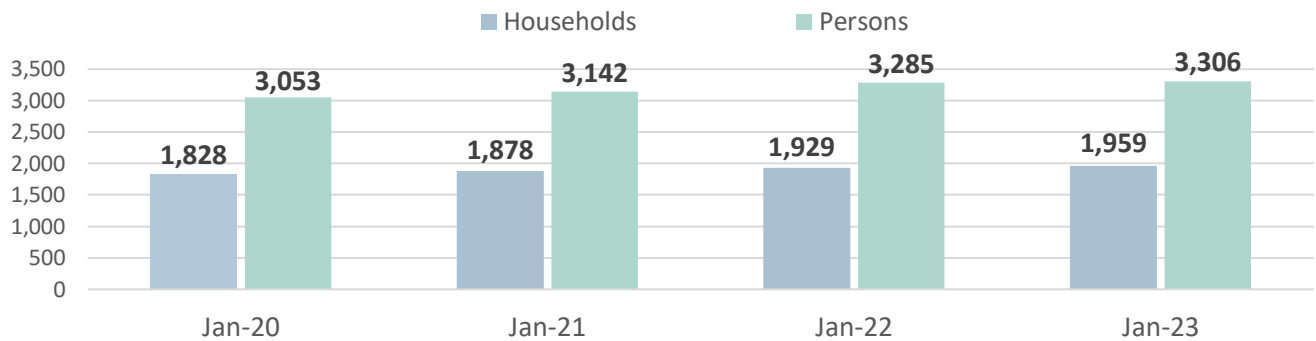
SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

SNAP enables low-income families to buy nutritious food with Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards. SNAP recipients spend their benefits to buy eligible food in authorized retail food stores/Farmers' Markets. The gross monthly income eligibility standard is typically 185% of the Federal Poverty Level. Maximum SNAP benefit levels can be found [here](#).²²

Between January 2020 (pre-pandemic) and January 2023, the monthly average of households receiving SNAP in Essex County increased by 7.2%.²³

Monthly Average Households Receiving SNAP in Essex County

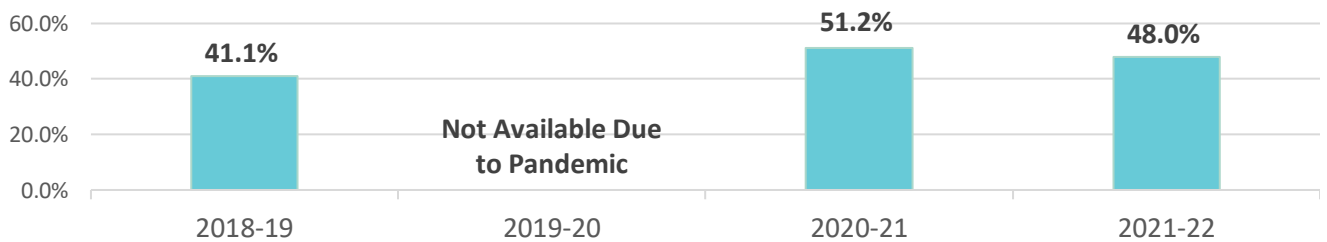
Source: Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance



During PY 2021-21, 48% or 59 ACAP families were receiving SNAP at enrollment, compared to 51.2% of families in PY 2020-21 and 41.1% in PY 2018-19.²⁴

ACAP HS/EHS Families Receiving SNAP at Enrollment

Source: Program Information Reports



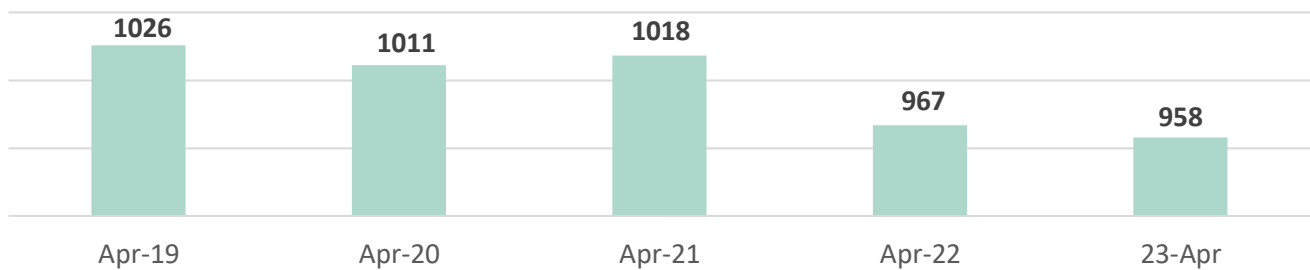
SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INSURANCE (SSI)

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) pays monthly benefits to people with limited income and resources, including those who are disabled, blind, or age 65 or older. Children who are disabled may also receive SSI. SSI payments increase with the cost-of-living increases that apply to Social Security benefits. The latest such increase, 8.7% became effective January 2023. The monthly maximum Federal amounts for 2023 are \$914 for an eligible individual, \$1,371 for an eligible individual with an eligible spouse, and \$458 for an essential person.²⁵

Monthly SSI recipients in Essex County decreased by 6.6% between April 2019 and April 2023.²⁶

SSI Recipients in Essex County, NY

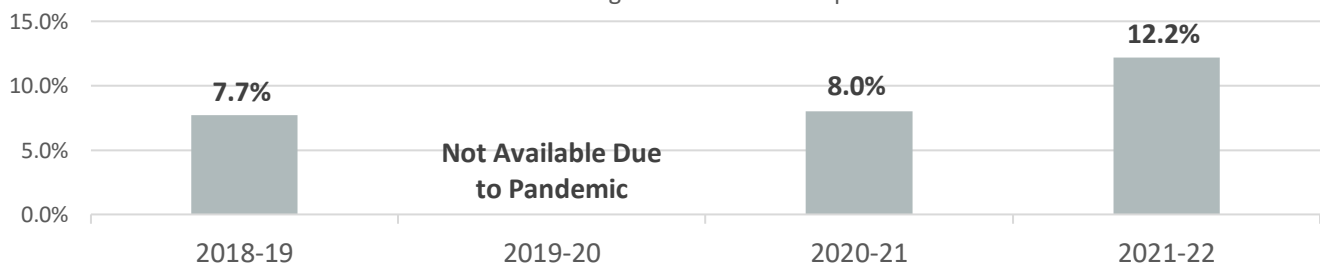
Source: NY State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance



During PY 2021-21, 12.2% or 15 ACAP families were receiving SSI at enrollment, compared to 8% of families in PY 2020-21 and 7.7% in PY 2018-19.²⁷

ACAP HS/EHS Families Receiving SSI at Enrollment

Source: Program Information Reports



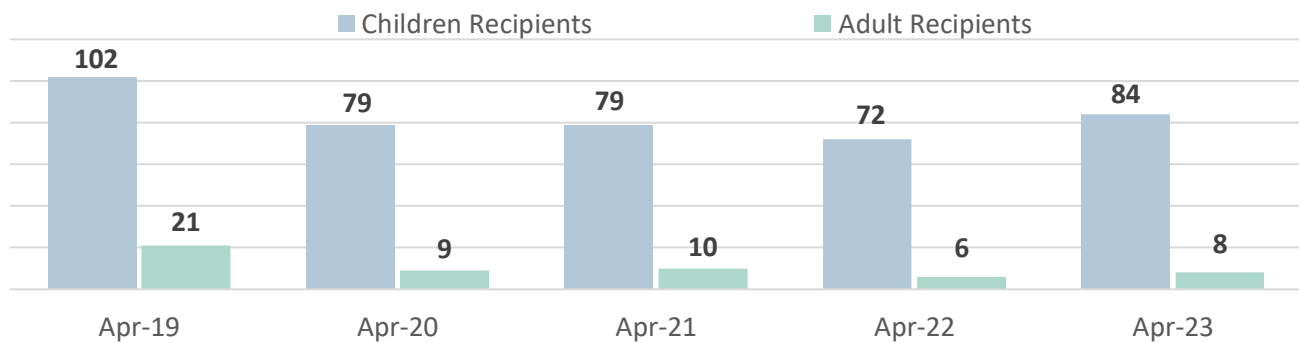
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)

Family Assistance (FA) provides cash assistance to eligible, needy families that include a minor child living with a parent(s) or a caretaker relative. FA operates under federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) guidelines. Under FA, eligible adults are limited to receiving benefits for a total of 60 months in their lifetime. Once this limit is reached, the adult and all members of his/her household are ineligible to receive any more FA benefits. Parents and other adult relatives receiving FA and who are determined to be able to work must comply with federal work requirements.

Monthly TANF recipients in Essex County decreased by 36.6% (-45 recipients) and child recipients declined by 29.4% (-30 children) between April 2019 and April 2022. However, child recipients increased by 16.7% or 12 children between April 2022 and April 2023.²⁸

Family Assistance (TANF) Recipients in Essex County, NY

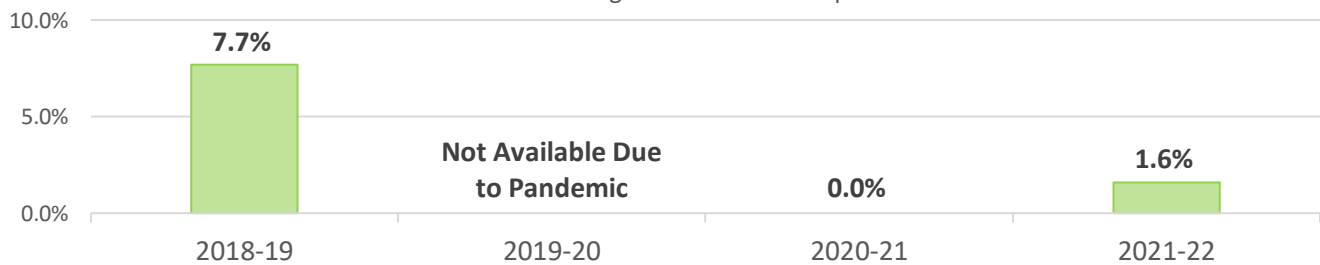
Source: NY State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance



During PY 2021-22, 1.6% or 2 ACAP families were receiving TANF at enrollment, compared to 0% in PY 2020-21 and 7.7% in PY 2018-19.²⁹

ACAP HS/EHS Families Receiving TANF Services at Enrollment

Source: Program Information Reports



WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

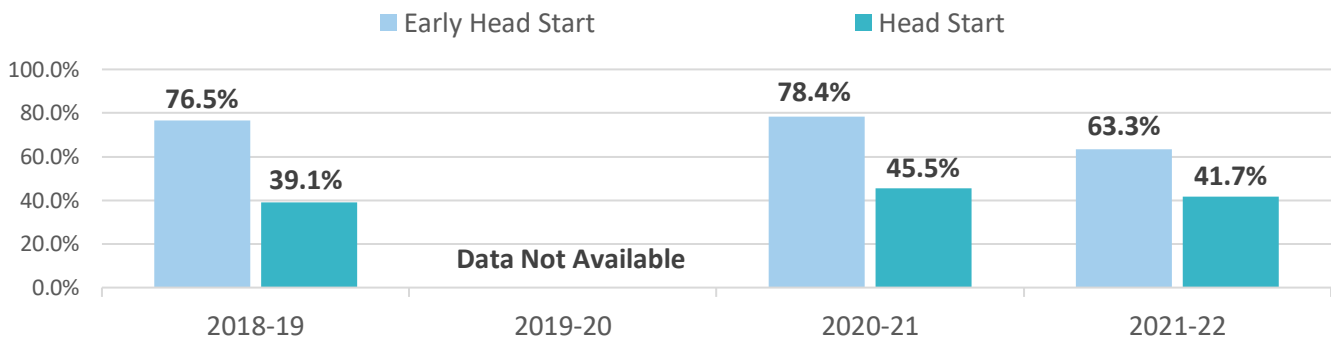
WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and an eWIC card to purchase approved foods at authorized grocery stores. During summer months families receive funds to use at local Farmer's Markets for fresh produce. Eligible recipients must be NY residents (not required to be a U.S. citizen), be pregnant or breastfeeding, and/or have a child younger than age 5 and a gross household income not exceeding 185% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines. A family is income eligible for WIC if it receives Medicaid, Food Stamps or TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families).³⁰

The average monthly 2022 WIC benefit per person in New York was \$65.08, compared to \$49.56 in FY 2021.³¹

During PY 2021-22, 63.3% of ACAP EHS families and 41.7% of HS families were receiving WIC services upon enrollment. Between 2019 and 2022, WIC utilization among EHS families declined by 13.2%.³²

Head Start/Early Head Start Families Receiving WIC Services at Enrollment

Source: Program Information Reports



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

- Essex County's 2022 four-year high school graduation rate was 88%, lower than 91% in 2021.
- The graduation rate was 79% for economically disadvantaged students, significantly lower than 95% for non-economically disadvantaged students.
- Of students with disabilities, only 57% graduated.
- By race/ethnicity, 88% (238) of White students, 80% (4) of Hispanic students, and 57% (4) of Multiracial students graduated. Data for other races are suppressed.³³

4 Year High School Graduation Rates and Student Count—Essex County

Graduation Rates		2021-2022 Subgroup Graduation Rates			
2020-21 288 students	2021-22 290 students	Not Economically Disadvantaged	Economically Disadvantaged	Students With Disabilities	Homeless
91% (263)	88% (255)	95% (157)	79% (98)	57% (30)	s

s = Data suppressed due to low numbers, not applicable, or unavailable Source: NYS Dept. of Education

2021-22 High School Graduation Rate by Race/Ethnicity—Essex County

White	Hispanic or Latino 79%	Black/ African American	Asian or Pacific Islander	Native American or Alaska Native	Multiracial
88% (238)	80% (4)	s	s	N/A	4 (57%)

s = Data suppressed due to low numbers, not applicable, or unavailable Source: NYS Dept. of Education



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

Health Outcomes represent a county’s current health and reflect the physical and mental well-being of residents through measures representing length and quality of life experienced in the community. Health Factors (health behaviors, clinical care, social & economic factors, physical environment) represent issues that, if modified, can improve length and quality of life.³⁴

Of New York’s 62 counties, Essex County is ranked 15 for Health Outcomes and 14 for Health Factors in 2023; this makes Essex County among the healthiest in the state. Essex County was ranked 19 for Health Outcomes and 13 for Health Factors in 2022. Low rates of the uninsured, access to exercise opportunities, and income equality are strengths in the county. “Areas to explore” are smoking (17%), adult obesity (29%), excessive drinking (22%), and high ratios of the population to primary care physicians (2,460:1); these factors most negatively impact the health of Essex County’s population.³⁵

2023 County Health Rankings

	Essex County, NY	New York State
 Areas of strength		
 Areas to explore		
Health Outcomes Ranking	15	
Length of Life	17	
Quality of Life	16	
Health Factors Ranking	14	
Health Behaviors	21	
Clinical Care	20	
Social & Economic Factors	18	
Physical Environment	2	

Poor or Fair Health	11%	12%
Adult Smoking	17%	12%
Adult Obesity	29%	27%
Food Environment Index	8.6	8.9
Physical Inactivity	22%	25%
Exercise Opportunities	100%	93%
Excessive Drinking	22%	18%
Income Inequality	4.0	5.8
Uninsured	5%	6%
Primary Care Physicians	2,460:1	1,170:1
Dentists	3,110:1	1,220:1
Mental Health Providers	540:1	300:1
Severe Housing Problems	13%	23%
Air Pollution	6.2	6.9

Source: countyhealthrankings.com

OBESITY

Conditions in which children live, learn, and play are social determinants of health (SDOH). SDOH differences affect obesity among racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups as well as in different geographies and among people with different physical abilities. SDOH include educational environments, neighborhood design, access to healthy and affordable foods, and access to safe and convenient places for physical activity.³⁶

WIC Children with Obesity or High Weight-For-Length, New York

Age	2010	2020	NH Black	NH White	Hispanic	AIAN	API
3-23 months	14.1%	9.7%	9.9%	9.3%	11.0%	9.8%	6.2%
24-48 months	16.1%	13.6%	12.8%	11.4%	17.3%	13.1%	9.1%

Source: Centers for Disease Control

Infants³⁷

Infants with high weight-for-length are at increased risk of obesity in childhood and early adulthood. Between 2010 and 2020, high weight-for-length among NY infants 3 to 23 months enrolled in WIC declined from 14.1% to 9.7%. Obesity was higher among children who were Hispanic (11%) and non-Hispanic Black (12.8%), than among children who were non-Hispanic White (12.1%).

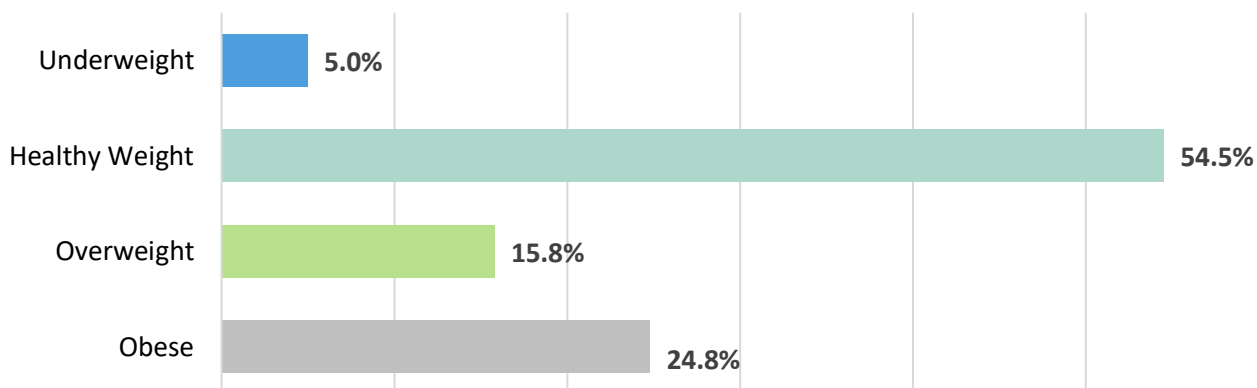
Ages 2 to 4³⁸

From 2010 to 2020, obesity among New York children ages 2 to 4 enrolled in WIC dropped from 16.1% to 13.6%. In 2020, 4-year-olds (15.6%) had higher obesity than 3-year-olds (14.4%) and 2-year-olds (11.6%). Obesity was higher among children who were Hispanic (17.3%) and Native American/Alaskan Native (13.1%), than among children who were non-Hispanic White (11.4%), non-Hispanic Black (12.8%), and Asian/Pacific Islander (9.1%).

In PY 2021-22, 54.5% of ACAP HS children had a healthy weight, while 5% of children were underweight, 15.8% were overweight, and 24.8% had obesity. In comparison, 64.1% of New York State Head Start children had a healthy weight, while 12.9% were overweight and 16.8% had obesity.³⁹

Weight Status of ACAP Head Start Children, PY 2021-22

Source: Program Information Reports



HOMELESSNESS

Public school data shows that 21 students in Essex County were identified as homeless during SY 2021-22, compared to 18 students during SY 2020-21. Of students experiencing homelessness, 76.2% were doubled up with other families due to economic hardship and the remainder were living in shelters or hotels/motels.⁴⁰

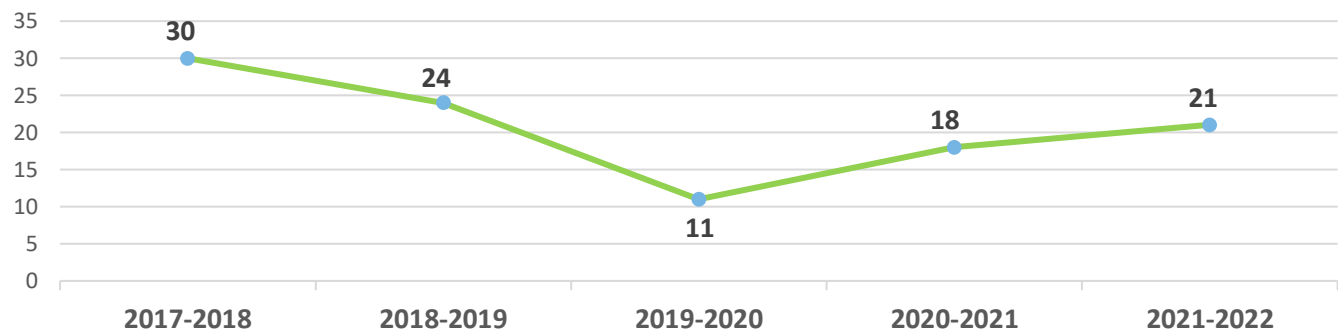
Essex County Public School Students Identified as Homeless, SY 2021-2022

Homeless (PreK-12)	Homeless (PreK)	Primary Nighttime Residence of Homeless Students			
		Doubled Up	Hotel/Motel	Shelters	Unsheltered*
21	0	76.2%	s	s	0.0%

s = suppressed, less than 5 students *Cars, parks, campgrounds, temporary trailers, abandoned buildings

Source: The New York State Technical and Educational Assistance Center for Homeless Students

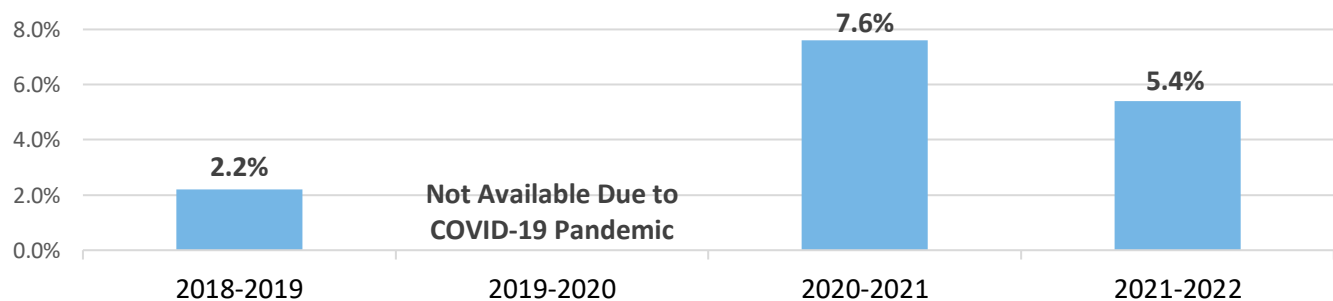
Public School Students Identified as Homeless--Essex County



During PY 2021-22, 5.4% or 7 ACAP Head Start/Early Head Start children experienced homelessness per the McKinney-Vento Act, compared to 7.6% in PY 2020-21 and 2.2% in PY 2018-19.⁴¹

ACAP Head Start/Early Head Start Children Experiencing Homelessness

Source: Program Information Reports



HOUSING

Cost Burdened Households

Cost burdened households have costs exceeding 30% or more of total household income. This indicator offers a measure of housing affordability and excessive shelter costs. The data also serves to aid in the development of housing programs to meet the needs of people at different economic levels.

Of Essex County households, 25.3% or 3,967 are cost burdened, lower than New York (36.9%). Cost-burdened rental households (41.4%) in Essex County are 15% higher than owner-occupied households with mortgages (26%).⁴²

Cost Burdened Households

Location	Cost Burdened Households	Cost Burdened Rental Households	Cost Burdened Owner-Occupied	
			Households w/ Mortgages	Households w/o Mortgages
New York	36.9%	48.8%	32.4%	18.6%
Essex County, NY	25.3%	41.4%	26.0%	14.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community, 2021 Five-Year Estimates

Fair Market Rent

The Fair Market Rent rate (FMR), established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, (HUD) is used as a basis for paying federal housing assistance programs like the Housing Choice Voucher Program (often called “Section 8”). Fair Market Rent is determined by conducting a nationwide survey each year. FMR prices are gross rent prices, meaning they include utilities.

The 2023 monthly FMR for a two-bedroom rental in Essex County is \$934, up 10.7% from 2022.⁴³ The corresponding 2023 housing wage is \$17.96/hour.⁴⁴

Fair Market Rent—Essex County, NY

Year	Efficiency	One-Bedroom	Two-Bedroom	Three-Bedroom	Four-Bedroom	Housing Wage for 2-Bedroom
2023	\$788	\$822	\$934	\$1,316	\$1,365	\$17.96
2022	\$691	\$739	\$844	\$1,162	\$1,166	\$16.23

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Office of Policy Development and Research

FOOD INSECURITY

Food insecurity refers to the USDA’s measure of lack of access to a sufficient amount of food for an active, healthy life for all household members, and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. According to Feeding America, “Food insecurity can cause serious health issues when families have to choose between spending money on food or on medicine and healthcare, as well as choosing between food and rent, bills, and transportation. Further, food insecurity can make it more difficult for a child to properly learn and develop.”⁴⁵

The 2021 child food insecurity rate was 11% in Essex County, compared to New York State (15.4%) and the U.S. (12.8%). Between 2019 (pre-pandemic) and 2021, child food insecurity decreased by 6% in Essex County and by .3% in New York. Massive public/private response to hunger during the pandemic was successful in mitigating food insecurity rates across the country.⁴⁶

While food insecurity for Essex County’s overall population decreased by 2.1% between 2019 and 2021, the divide across racial and ethnic lines remained. Food insecurity among the Hispanic population in 2021 was 17% while food insecurity among the White population was just 6%.⁴⁷

Age*	Food Insecurity		
	2019	2020	2021
United States			
Child (<18 years)	14.6%	16.1%	12.8%
Overall	10.9%	11.8%	10.4%
New York			
Child (<18 years)	15.7%	14.6%	15.4%
Overall	10.7%	9.6%	11.4%
Essex County, NY			
Child (<18 years)	17.0%	14.8%	11.0%
Overall	11.0%	10.6%	8.9%

TRANSPORTATION

Of households in Essex County, 9.3% do not have a vehicle. Of rental households in Essex County, 27.9% do not have a vehicle.⁴⁸

Households with No Motor Vehicle

Location	Total Occupied Households	Households with No Motor Vehicle (Count)	Households with No Motor Vehicle (Percent)
New York	7,530,150	2,175,983	28.9%
Essex County, NY	15,714	1,456	9.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2021 Five-Year Estimates DP04

Households with No Motor Vehicle by Tenure

Location	Owner-Occupied Households		Renter-Occupied Households	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
New York	399,747	9.8%	1,776,236	51.7%
Essex County, NY	432	3.6%	1,024	27.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2021 Five-Year Estimates B25044

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

For current community resource information in Essex County, visit <https://211ny4regions.communityos.org/adirondack>.

REFERENCES

- ¹ U.S. Census Bureau. (2021). American Community Survey (ACS) User Guide. Retrieved January 2022, from https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2021/acs/acs_pums_handbook_2021.pdf
- ² U.S. Census Bureau. (2022 December). American Community Survey 2021 Five-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>
- ³ U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). Decennial Census. Retrieved March 2022, from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>
- ⁴ Program Information Reports. Office of Head Start Enterprise System. (2022). Retrieved 2023 from <https://hses.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/pir/reports/>
- ⁵ U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). *American Community Survey 2017-2021 5-Year Estimates*.
- ⁶ Program Information Reports. Office of Head Start Enterprise System. (2022).
- ⁷ U.S. Census Bureau. (2022 December). American Community Survey 2021 Five-Year Estimates.
- ⁸ NYSED Data Site. Information Reporting System. (2022-2023). Retrieved 2023 from <https://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/statistics/enroll-n-staff/home.html>
- ⁹ *Search for Child Care*. OCFS. (2023, July).
- ¹⁰ *Search for Child Care*. OCFS. (2023, July).
- ¹¹ New York State Department of Health. (2022 November). New York State County/ZIP Code Perinatal Data Profile - 2018-2020. Retrieved July 2023, from <https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/chac/perinatal/county/2018-2020/>
- ¹² NY Department of Health. Early Intervention Municipality Performance Data. (2021). Retrieved from https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/community/infants_children/early_intervention/local_program_performance/
- ¹³ Program Information Reports. Office of Head Start Enterprise System. (2022).
- ¹⁴ *NY State Department of Labor*. Minimum Wage Lookup. (2023). Retrieved July 2023, from <https://ux.labor.ny.gov/minimum-wage-lookup/>
- ¹⁵ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (202, January). *Federal Poverty Guidelines*. Retrieved from <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines>
- ¹⁶ Glasmeier, Amy. K. and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. (2022). *Living Wage Calculator*. Retrieved June 2022, from <https://livingwage.mit.edu/>
- ¹⁷ U.S. Census Bureau. (2022 Dec). American Community Survey 2021 Five-Year Estimates. Chart S1901.
- ¹⁸ Current US inflation rates: 2020-2022: US Inflation Calculator. (2023, July 12). Retrieved from <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/inflation/current-inflation-rates/>
- ¹⁹ *CPI Home*. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.bls.gov/cpi/>
- ²⁰ *CPI Home*. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2023, July 12). Retrieved from <http://www.bls.gov/cpi/>
- ²¹ U.S. Census Bureau. (2022 Dec). American Community Survey, 2021 Five-Year Estimates.

-
- ²² New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. (2023, April) from <https://otda.ny.gov/SNAP-COVID-19/Frequently-Asked-Questions.asp>
- ²³ Caseload Statistics: OTDA. New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. (2023, April). Retrieved, from <https://otda.ny.gov/resources/caseload/>
- ²⁴ *Program Information Reports*. Office of Head Start Enterprise System. (2019-2022).
- ²⁵ U.S. Social Security Administration. (2022). *Social Security*. SSI Federal Payment Amounts for 2023. Retrieved from <https://www.ssa.gov/OACT/COLA/SSI.html>
- ²⁶ *Caseload statistics: OTDA*. New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. (2019-2022). Retrieved July 2023, from <https://otda.ny.gov/resources/caseload/>
- ²⁷ *Program Information Reports*. Office of Head Start Enterprise System. (2019-2022).
- ²⁸ *Caseload statistics: OTDA*. New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. (2019-2023).
- ²⁹ *Program Information Reports*. Office of Head Start Enterprise System. (2019-2022).
- ³⁰ *Women, Infants & Children*. Essex County Health Department | . (n.d.). Retrieved June 2022, from <https://www.co.essex.ny.us/Health/wic/>
- ³¹ Average Monthly Food Cost Per Person. WIC Data Tables | Food and Nutrition Service. (2023, January). Retrieved July 2023, from <https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/wic-program>
- ³² *Program Information Reports*. Office of Head Start Enterprise System. (2022).
- ³³ NYSED Data Site. data.nysed.gov. (August 2022). Retrieved June 2023, from <https://data.nysed.gov/>
- ³⁴ University of WI Population Health Institute. (2023). County Health Rankings. Retrieved from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>
- ³⁵ University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. (2023). County Health Rankings.
- ³⁶ Centers for Disease Control. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/basics/causes.html>
- ³⁷ Centers for Disease Control. Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity: Data, Trends and Maps. (2010-2020) Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpao/data-trends-maps/index.html>
- ³⁸ U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity. (2020). Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/obesity-among-WIC-enrolled-young-children.html>
- ³⁹ Office of Head Start, Head Start Enterprise System, Program Information Reports. Health Report. (2022).
- ⁴⁰ NYSTEACHS. (2022). Data on Student Homelessness. NYSTEACHS. Retrieved from <https://www.nysteachs.org/data-on-student-homelessness>
- ⁴¹ Office of Head Start, Head Start Enterprise System, Program Information Reports. (2022).
- ⁴² U.S. Census Bureau. (2022 Dec). American Community Survey 2021 Five-Year Estimates, Charts DP04 and S2503 .
- ⁴³ FY 2023 Fair Market Rent Documentation System. Fair Market Rents (40th PERCENTILE RENTS) | HUD USER. (2023). Retrieved from <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr.html#2023>
- ⁴⁴ Formula used: FMR x 12 months, divided by 30% (cost burdened rate), divided by 2,080 (full time hours)
- ⁴⁵ Feeding America. Retrieved from <https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/food-insecurity>
- ⁴⁶ Feeding America. (2021) Retrieved from www.FeedingAmerica.com
- ⁴⁷ Feeding America. (2021) Retrieved from www.FeedingAmerica.com
- ⁴⁸ U.S. Census Bureau. (2022 Dec). American Community Survey 2021 Five-Year Estimates, Charts DP04 and B25044