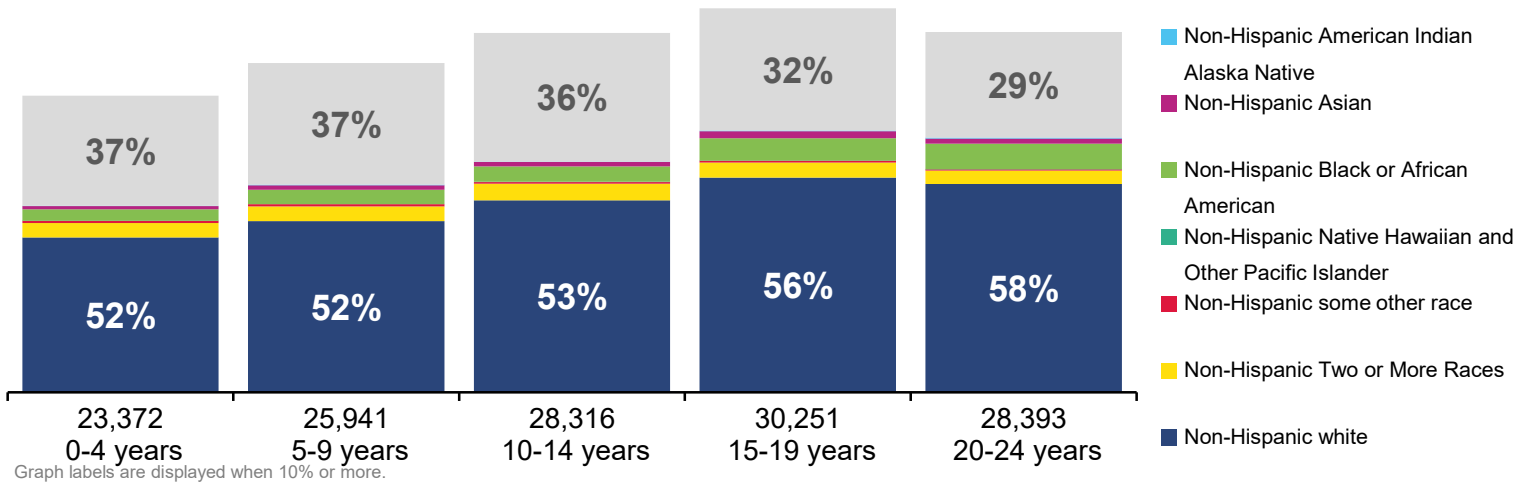


2026 STATE OF THE CHILD - BERKS

Population Diversity (2020 Census)



22%
of the county's population is
CHILDREN

95,191
citizens are
CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS

41,082
citizens are
18-24 YEARS

Children Living in Poverty (<100% FPL)



1 IN 6 (16,770)
CHILDREN
under 18 live in **POVERTY**

37%
CHILDREN
under 18 are **LOW-INCOME** (<200%)

13%
YOUNG ADULTS
18-24 live in **POVERTY**

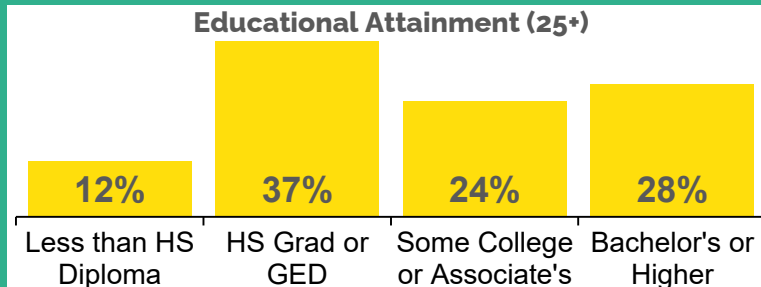
1 IN 3 (9,960)
YOUNG ADULTS
18-24 are **LOW-INCOME**

Households with Children
30%

Median Income of Households with Children
MARRIED COUPLE \$127,000
SINGLE FATHER \$62,900
SINGLE MOTHER \$37,200

Unemployment Rate
4.4%

Children Experiencing Homelessness
2,599
Children Under 6 with All Caregivers in Labor Force
70%



Children in Households Receiving Public Assistance
30%
Households with High Housing Cost Burden
29%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

BLACK CHILDREN AND HISPANIC CHILDREN have disproportionately higher rates of CPS referrals

BLACK CHILDREN, HISPANIC CHILDREN AND CHILDREN OF MULTIPLE RACES have disproportionately higher substantiation rates

BLACK CHILDREN, HISPANIC CHILDREN AND CHILDREN OF MULTIPLE RACES have disproportionately higher rates of valid GPS allegations

2 IN 3
GPS reports screened-out

16%
of assessed GPS reports were valid

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

1,876
children enrolled in publicly funded, high-quality pre-k; yet
3,809
eligible children remain unserved

381
more educators are needed to serve all eligible pre-k children

76%
of infants and toddlers eligible for the subsidized Child Care Works program remain unserved

48%
of children under age 5 in Child Care Works are in high-quality care

48%
of child care licensed capacity for children under 5 is high-quality

HOME VISITING

5,250
families are most likely to benefit from evidence-based home visiting services

627
families receive evidence-based home visiting services

Evidence-based home visiting models in this county receiving state funds:

- ✓ Child First
- ✓ Family Check-Up®
- ✓ Healthy Families America
- ✓ Early Head Start
- ✓ Family Connects
- Nurse-Family Partnership
- Parents as Teachers
- Safecare Augmented®

36
members served in the Medical Assistance Maternal Home Visiting Program

K-12 EDUCATION

More than
71,190
enrolled students in
20 school district(s) within the county

54%
of school district students are economically disadvantaged

42%
of 3rd graders score proficient or advanced in English Language Arts as measured by the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA)

45%
of 8th graders score proficient or advanced in math as measured by the PSSA

3,717
students enrolled in career and technical education

PERINATAL AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH

6%
of children under 19 have no health insurance

55%
of all children in the county are enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP coverage

1,709
children in the county enrolled in health coverage through Pennie™, the state's health insurance marketplace

1,789
infants and toddlers receive services through Early Intervention Part C

69%
of eligible infants, young children and women participate in the Pennsylvania WIC program

Definitions and data sources can be found at papartnerships.org/report/state-of-the-child-2026