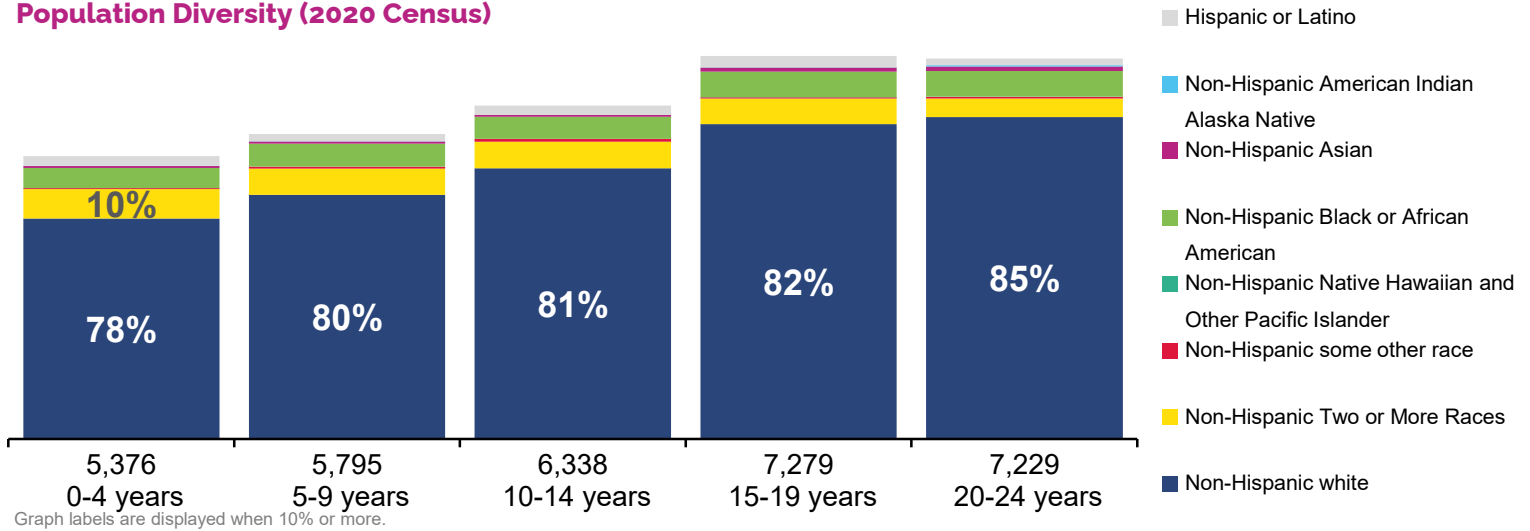


2026 STATE OF THE CHILD - MERCER

Population Diversity (2020 Census)



20%
of the county's population is
CHILDREN

21,624
citizens are
CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS

10,393
citizens are
18-24 YEARS

Children Living in Poverty (<100% FPL)



1 IN 5 (4,130)
CHILDREN
under 18 live in **POVERTY**

44%
CHILDREN
under 18 are **LOW-INCOME** (<200%)

17%
YOUNG ADULTS
18-24 live in **POVERTY**

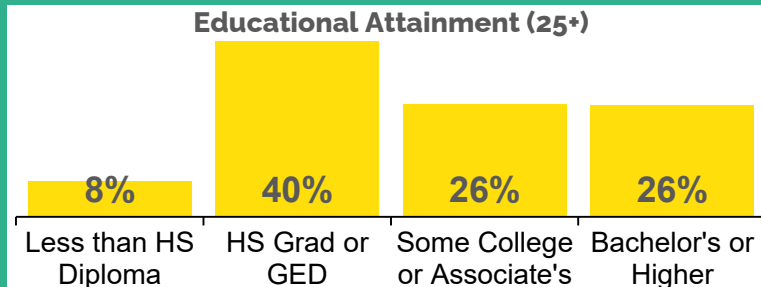
1 IN 3 (2,230)
YOUNG ADULTS
18-24 are **LOW-INCOME**

Households with Children
24%

Median Income of Households with Children
MARRIED COUPLE \$111,600
SINGLE FATHER \$40,300
SINGLE MOTHER \$30,700

Unemployment Rate
4.8%

Children Experiencing Homelessness
310
Children Under 6 with All Caregivers in Labor Force
64%



Children in Households Receiving Public Assistance
30%
Households with High Housing Cost Burden
22%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

BLACK CHILDREN AND CHILDREN OF MULTIPLE RACES have disproportionately higher rates of CPS referrals, including substantiations and valid GPS allegations

Top CPS substantiated report allegation(s):
SEXUAL ABUSE

Top valid GPS report concern(s):
CONDUCT BY CAREGIVER THAT PLACES CHILD AT RISK OR FAILS TO PROTECT CHILD

1 IN 3
GPS reports screened-out

34%
of assessed GPS reports were valid

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

456
children enrolled in publicly funded, high-quality pre-k; yet
951
eligible children remain unserved

95
more educators are needed to serve all eligible pre-k children

87%
of infants and toddlers eligible for the subsidized Child Care Works program remain unserved

44%
of children under age 5 in Child Care Works are in high-quality care

51%
of child care licensed capacity for children under 5 is high-quality

HOME VISITING

1,490
families are most likely to benefit from evidence-based home visiting services

360
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
- ✓ Nurse-Family Partnership
- ✓ Parents as Teachers
- ✓ Safecare Augmented®
- ✓ Early Head Start
- ✓ Family Connects

0
members served in the Medical Assistance Maternal Home Visiting Program

K-12 EDUCATION

More than **19,270**
enrolled students in **15** school district(s) within the county

51%
of school district students are economically disadvantaged

51%
of 3rd graders score proficient or advanced in English Language Arts as measured by the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA)

52%
of 8th graders score proficient or advanced in math as measured by the PSSA

1,075
students enrolled in career and technical education

PERINATAL AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH

9%
of children under 19 have no health insurance

56%
of all children in the county are enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP coverage

311
children in the county enrolled in health coverage through Pennie™, the state's health insurance marketplace

313
infants and toddlers receive services through Early Intervention Part C

52%
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