THE STATE OF ESSEX COUNTY
Elevating Community & Collaboration
POLL EVERYWHERE
PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO PARTICIPATE
JOHN COLUCCI
BOARD OF TRUSTEES, CHAIR
ECCF
DR. STEVEN DISALVO
PRESIDENT
ENDICOTT COLLEGE
BETH FRANCIS
PRESIDENT & CEO
ECCF
A STATE OF THE COUNTY
BY THE NUMBERS

DATA-CENTERED STRATEGIES: IMPACTESSEXCOUNTY.ORG
What does this measure?
The share of residents with incomes below the poverty level, and at various proportions of the poverty level (below half, double the poverty level, etc.). Poverty thresholds vary by family composition and year. In 2021, the threshold for a four-person family with two children was $27,479.

Why is this important?
The percentage of people living in or near poverty is a measure of the overall economic health of a region. It also indicates the level of need for social and government supports.
**Essex County is Dynamic**

Since 2000:

- **807,000** residents | up 12%
- **51%** of population lives in Gateway Cities
- **Aging Population** | Residents age 60+ most growth
- **Growing Diversity**
  - Hispanic population up 123%
  - Black population up 90%
- **35% of families** with children 0-18 are singles | up 8%
POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS

EDUCATION

- High school graduation rates in Essex County up 13% from 2006
  - 90% graduation rate in 2021
  - Lawrence had the largest gain since 2006, with a 38-point increase

ECONOMY

- Unemployment Rate is 3.8% (bounced back from COVID)
- Job Participation Rate is back to 65%
- Jobs Increased
  - 4% growth post-COVID (‘20 to ’21); higher than state and US
  - Up 17% from 2001-17 to 461,200; similar to state
POsitive Highlights

Children
- Lead in Children: Rate of 2.7 per 1,000 children; **40% decline since 2010**
- Teen Births: Rate is 8 per 1,000 teens; **77% decline** from the rate of 33 per 1,000 in 2000 (MA rate was 6 per 1,000; national rate was 15)

Health and Environment
- Only 4% without health insurance; down 33% since 2010
- Open Space: 24% of all land in the county is protected (similar to state)
  - Highest: Newbury (47%) and Ipswich (45%)
  - Lowest: Lawrence (5%) and Methuen (2%)
Living in Essex County is increasingly difficult. Wages are stagnant and costs are increasing.
FINANCIAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY

COST OF LIVING
35% (nearly 276,000) are living below the living wage

SALARY GROWTH
Slower than state and US since 2000

$462,900
Median Home Value in Essex County is higher than both state and US

$133,300
Living Wage for a family of 4 with 2 earners

38%
Home Values are up since 2000

15%
ESSEX COUNTY

26%
STATE

22%
US
IMPACT ON DAILY LIVING & WEALTH

HOME OWNERSHIP RATE
64% overall
20-50% lower in Lawrence, Lynn, Salem, Haverhill

HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVING TEMPORARY PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
Increased 60% since 2007; higher than the state and US

HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVING SNAP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017-21</td>
<td>ESSEX COUNTY, MA</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BEVERLY</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HAVENHILL</td>
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<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNITED STATES</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15% of residents received SNAP, an increase from 12% in 2012
**IMPACT ON OUR CHILDREN**

47% of students are economically disadvantaged* (up from 28% in 2015; higher than the state rate of 42%)

**Lawrence (65%) and Lynn (60%)**

1 in 5 families lacks a basic computer, putting these children – and their families – at an even higher disadvantage post-COVID

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**CHILDREN IN POVERTY**

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</tbody>
</table>

*21,700 children are living in poverty (13% of all children under 18; **up from 12% in 2000**)

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*Students are defined as economically disadvantaged if they participate in >1 state programs, e.g., SNAP, Medicaid or Foster care.*
Essex County workers need educational and career pathways to secure living wage jobs and meet the workforce needs of local employers.
**WORKFORCE: ROBUST JOB OPENINGS**

- Unemployment is low 3.8%
- Workforce participation rate is back up to 65%*
  - *Hispanic communities lag at 63% participation
- Local salaries are growing at a slower rate than across the state

*MassHire North Shore Workforce Board data

**TOTAL JOB POSTINGS IN ESSEX COUNTY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Values</td>
<td>120,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

63% Increase since 2018

**Highest growing sectors:**
- Education
- Manufacturing
- Life Science
- Construction
**WORKFORCE: EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

41% of adults have at least a bachelor’s degree, but it is below the state rate (45%) and Middlesex County (58%)

- In Lawrence and Lynn, just 14% and 21%, have a bachelor’s degree
- 15% of the county’s Hispanic residents have a bachelor’s degree or higher

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA 2017-21</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESSEX COUNTY, MA</td>
<td>10%</td>
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A large % of our workforce does not have a high school diploma
WORKFORCE: TRANSPORTATION IS A BARRIER

5% of residents use public transportation to get to work

80% of residents drive alone, increasing cost and barriers to job opportunities

15-25% of residents DO NOT own a car (Lawrence, Salem and Lynn)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essex County, MA</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beverly</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gloucester</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haverhill</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynn</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methuen</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peabody</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salem</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salisbury</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>9%</td>
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</table>
We need to better support Essex County’s students so that they can realize their full potential.
**EDUCATION: 3RD GRADE READING**

Proficiency was **lower among economically disadvantaged** students (23%)
Proficiency was **lower for Hispanic** (20%) and **Black students** (30%)
- Compared with students not disadvantaged (61%), White students (57%), Asian students (53%)

**PERCENT OF STUDENTS PASSING GRADE 3 READING | 2022**

- **ESSEX COUNTY, MA**: 23%
- **HAVERHILL**: 23%
- **LAWRENCE**: 17%
- **LYNN**: 16%
- **METHUEN**: 23%
- **PEABODY**: 24%
- **SALEM**: 17%
- **MASSACHUSETTS**: 26%

**39%** of 3rd graders **proficient** in reading

DOWN 11 points from 2018 and **below the state rate of 44%**
EDUCATION: 8TH GRADE MATH

Rates were lower among some groups:
- 19% among economically disadvantaged students
- 18% among Hispanic and Black students

PERCENT OF STUDENTS PASSING GRADE 8 MATH | 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Percentage Passing</th>
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<tbody>
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34% of 8th graders proficient in math.
DOWN 15% since 2018
While much of Essex County is **thriving (e.g. low unemployment, job growth and higher graduation rates)**, there are deep pockets of poverty, economic struggle, low student achievement and unequal access to resources, including jobs and transportation.

These disparities severely impact **our friends and neighbors**. Tackling today’s challenges will require collaboration across all sectors and designing and testing creative solutions.
THE STATE OF ESSEX COUNTY
Elevating Community & Collaboration
ECCF’S SYSTEMS CHANGE APPROACH

BEGIN WITH DATA
• Prioritize critical issues and understand where philanthropy can make the most impact

ALIGN CROSS-SECTOR COMMUNITY PARTNERS
• Philanthropy, government, nonprofits and communities working in partnership to solve our greatest social challenges

ENCOURAGE COLLABORATIVE INVESTMENT
• Outline goals and design solutions that invite collective action and are supported by long-term funding

TEST, LEARN AND ADAPT
• Collaborate and think systemically to nurture partnerships and trust, which are foundational to building a thriving Essex County for all of us
ADVANCED MANUFACTURING: NEW PATHS FORWARD

JENNIFER EDWARDS
DIRECTOR, GLOBAL PROGRAMS, GE FOUNDATION

MARY SARRIS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MASSHIRE NORTH SHORE WORKFORCE BOARD
CREATIVE COUNTY: STRENGTHENING A CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM

KAREN RISTUBEN
PROGRAM DIRECTOR, ECCF

DONEECA THURSTON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE LYNN MUSEUM/LYNN ARTS
DIGITAL EQUITY: TIME FOR CHANGE

KEVIN CONNOLLY
FUNDER & ADVISOR, DIGITAL EQUITY COALITION

CAROLINA TRUJILLO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CITIZENS INN
THE STATE OF ESSEX COUNTY
Elevating Community & Collaboration
ON THE HORIZON

RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND

We will be launching a new fund later this summer, grounded in a 3-pronged strategy to support organizations committed to this work.

NEW DATA STUDY: CLIMATE RESILIENCE & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

We will share this study/report this fall and convene a discussion of the findings to lift up ideas that can bring about change for Essex County.
GET INVOLVED

JOIN A COALITION

• Become part of a cross-sector group working collaboratively on challenges that matter to you

BECOME AN ECCF DONOR

• Establish a charitable fund or donate to an existing fund at ECCF

STAY CONNECTED: SIGN UP FOR OUR FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

• Be the first to learn about news like ECCF’s Racial Equity and Social Justice Fund
• Learn more about our nonprofit learning opportunities & community events
• Hear details about The Endowment for Essex County, a campaign designed to establish long-term resources to tackle our county’s challenges today, and in the future