

THE STATE OF ESSEX COUNTY Elevating Community & Collaboration

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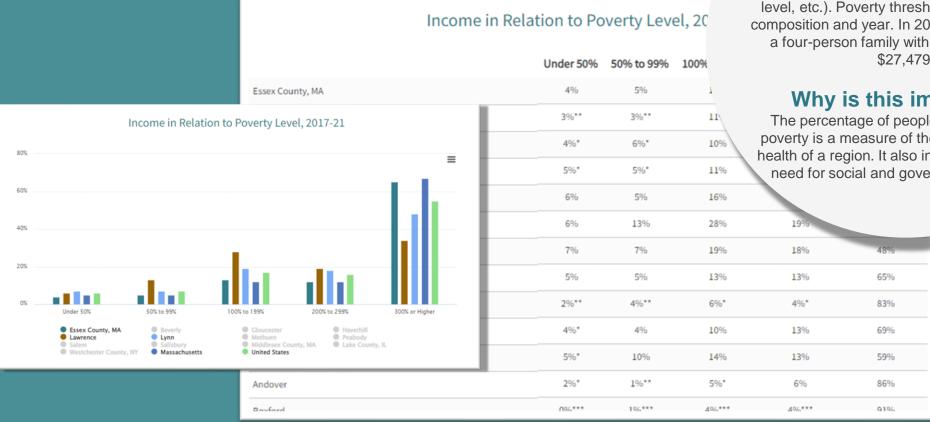
STRATTON LLOYD

EVP & COO ECCF **DATA-CENTERED STRATEGIES: IMPACTESSEXCOUNTY.ORG**

A STATE OF THE COUNTY BY THE NUMBERS



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?

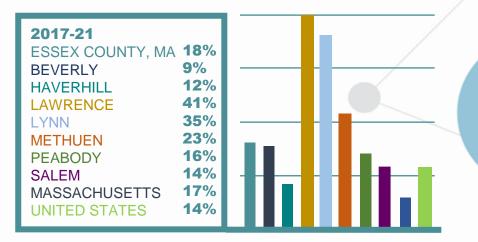
The percentage of people living in or near poverty is a measure of the overall economic health of a region. It also indicates the level of need for social and government supports.

ESSEX COUNTY IS DYNAMIC

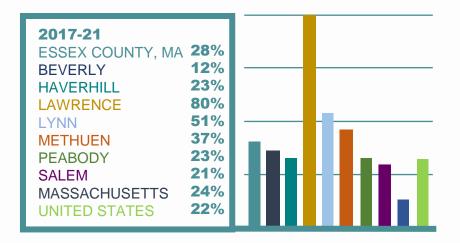
Since 2000:

- **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%

GROWING FOREIGN BORN POPULATION



INCREASING LANGUAGE DIVERSITY



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



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



\$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

SALARY GROWTH
Slower than state and
US since 2000

>

15%
ESSEX COUNTY

26%STATE

22%US



HOME OWNERSHIP RATE

64% overall

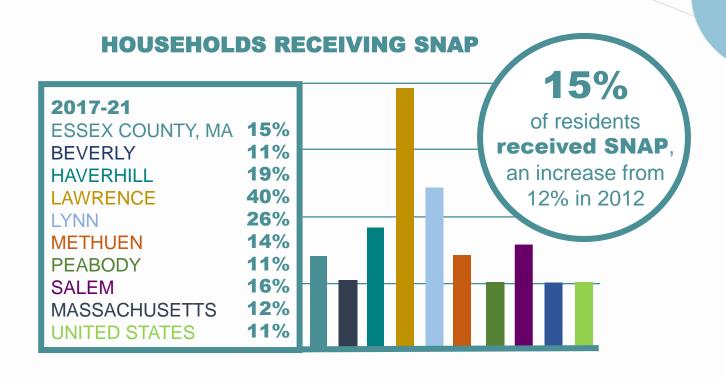
20-50% lower in Lawrence, Lynn, Salem, Haverhill

HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVING TEMPORARY PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Increased 60%

since 2007; higher than the state and US

IMPACT ON DAILY LIVING & WEALTH



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

CHILDREN IN POVERTY

2017-21	
ESSEX COUNTY, M	A 13%
BEVERLY	17%
HAVERHILL	16%
LAWRENCE	24%
LYNN	19%
METHUEN	12 %
PEABODY	11%
SALEM	24%
MASSACHUSETTS	12%

UNITED STATES

17%

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

^{*}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.



Unemployment is low 3.8%



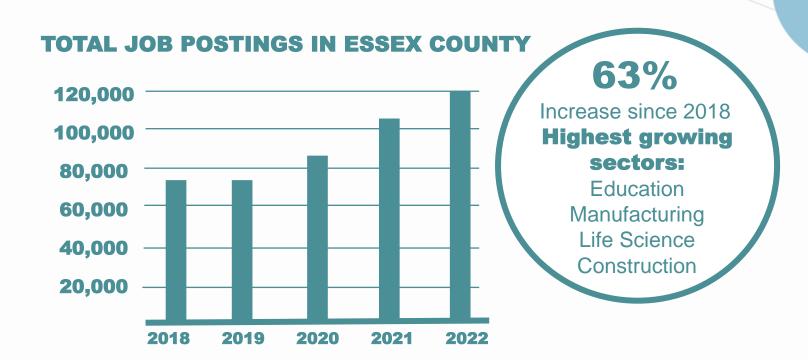
Workforce participation rate is back up to 65%*

*Hispanic communities lag at 63% participation



Local salaries are growing at a slower rate than across the state

WORKFORCE: ROBUST JOB OPENINGS



*MassHire North Shore Workforce Board data

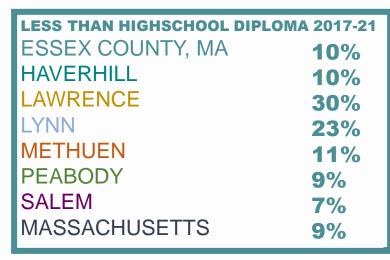
WORKFORCE: EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

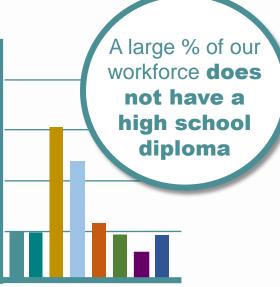


41% of adults have at least a bachelor's degree, but it is below the state rate (45%) and Middlesex County (58%)

- 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

EDUCATION LEVELS OF ADULTS





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)

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

2017-21	
ESSEX COUNTY, MA	5 %
BEVERLY	9%
GLOUCESTER	2%
HAVERHILL	3%
LAWRENCE	3%
LYNN	9%
METHUEN	1%
PEABODY	3%
SALEM	9%
SALISBURY	2%
MASSACHUSETTS	9%

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%)

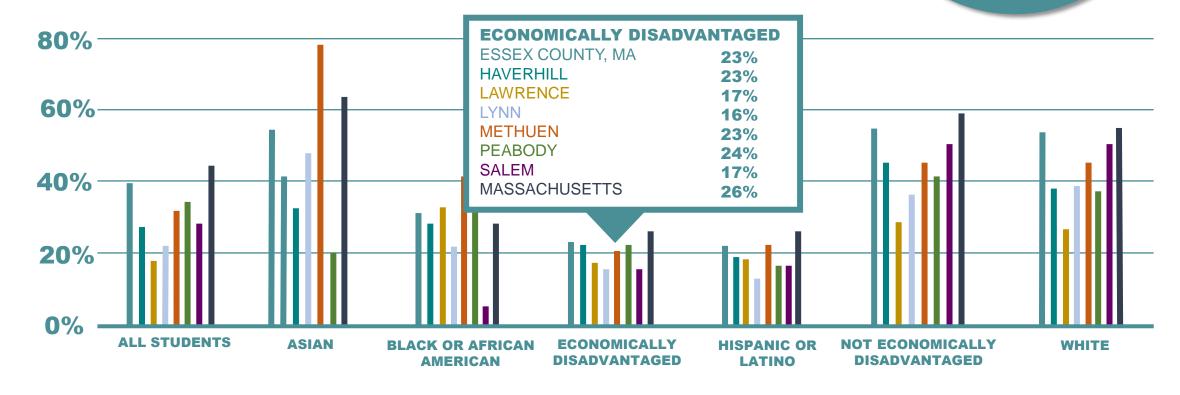
• Compared with students not disadvantaged (61%), White students (57%), Asian students (53%)

39%

of 3rd graders proficient in reading

DOWN 11 points from 2018 and below the state rate of 44%

PERCENT OF STUDENTS PASSING GRADE 3 READING | 2022



EDUCATION: 8TH GRADE MATH

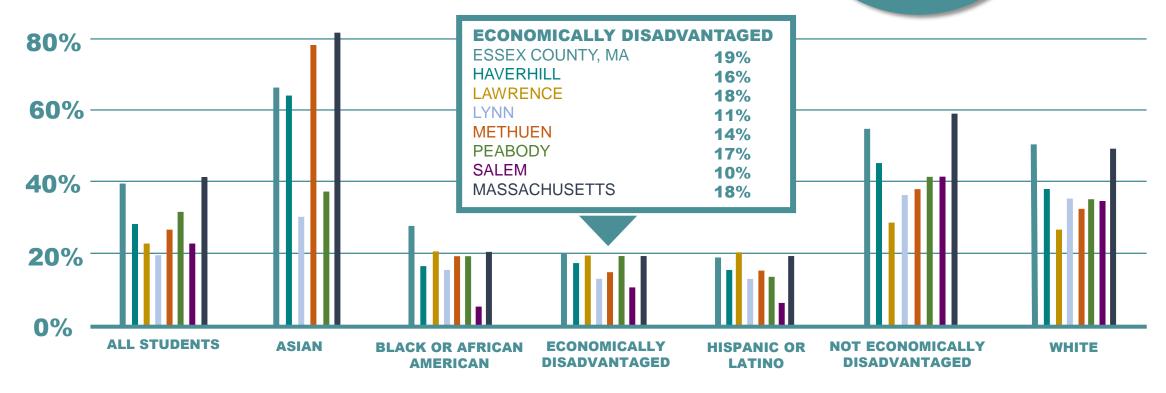
Rates were **lower among some** groups:

- 19% among economically disadvantaged students
- 18% among Hispanic and Black students

34%

of 8th graders proficient in math. **DOWN 15% since**2018

PERCENT OF STUDENTS PASSING GRADE 8 MATH | 2022



SUMMARY TAKE-AWAYS

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.

KIM DRISCOLL IELITENIANT GOVERNOR

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS



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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