

EPIDEMIOLOGIC PROFILE FOR THE PHILADELPHIA ELIGIBLE METROPOLITAN AREA

~INFOGRAPHICS~

OFFICE OF HIV PLANNING

4/22/26

This profile was prepared for the Philadelphia Eligible Metropolitan Area HIV Integrated Planning Council (HIPC) and describes the general population of the nine-county area. Its purpose is to inform HIPC members and our stakeholders to promote data-driven decisions.

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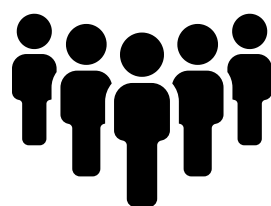
Tiffany B. Dominique

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Philadelphia EMA by the Numbers

[Click here for more details on this set of infographics](#)


Population

 **5.5M**

In 2024, an estimated 5,589,093 people were living in the Philadelphia Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA). The EMA includes 4 NJ Counties (Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Salem), Philadelphia, and 4 suburban PA Counties (Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery).

ACS, Table B03002

Households

 **2.5**

In 2024, the EMA consisted of a total of 2,202,993 households, with an average household size of 2.5 individuals.

ACS, Table S1101

Uninsured

 **4.5%**

In 2024, of the civilian noninstitutionalized population in the Philadelphia EMA, 4.5% are uninsured. Of those uninsured, they are more likely to be born male, have less than a high school diploma, or unemployed.

ACS, Table S2701

Educational Attainment

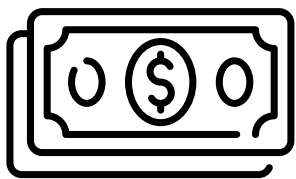
 **93%**

In 2024, 93% of adults aged 25 and older had at least a high school diploma. People assigned female at birth had slightly higher educational attainment than those assigned male at birth, with 42% compared to 40% having a bachelor's degree or higher.

ACS, Table S1501

Philadelphia EMA by the Numbers

Poverty Rate



10%

In 2024, 10% of the Philadelphia EMA population were living below the poverty level. Of people living below the poverty level, they were more likely to be born female, have less than a high school degree, or unemployed. Philadelphia county has the greatest poverty rate of 21.4%

ACS, Table S1701

Internet Access



93%

In the Philadelphia EMA, an average of 93% of households have an Internet subscription. In households making less than \$20,000, 22% do not have an internet subscription.

ACS, Table S2801

Unemployment Rate

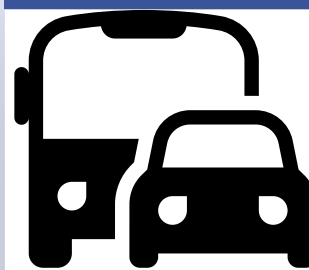


5%

In 2024, the average unemployment rate for people aged 20-64 in the Philadelphia EMA was 5.43%. Of those unemployed, they were more likely to be living below poverty level (26.21%) or with any disability (11.78%).

ACS, Table S2301

Transportation



9.8%

On average, the 2020-2024 estimated percent of Philadelphia EMA residents who use public transportation to get to work is 9.8%. Within the NJ and PA suburban counties, it is an average of 2.6%, and Philadelphia county is 16.7%.

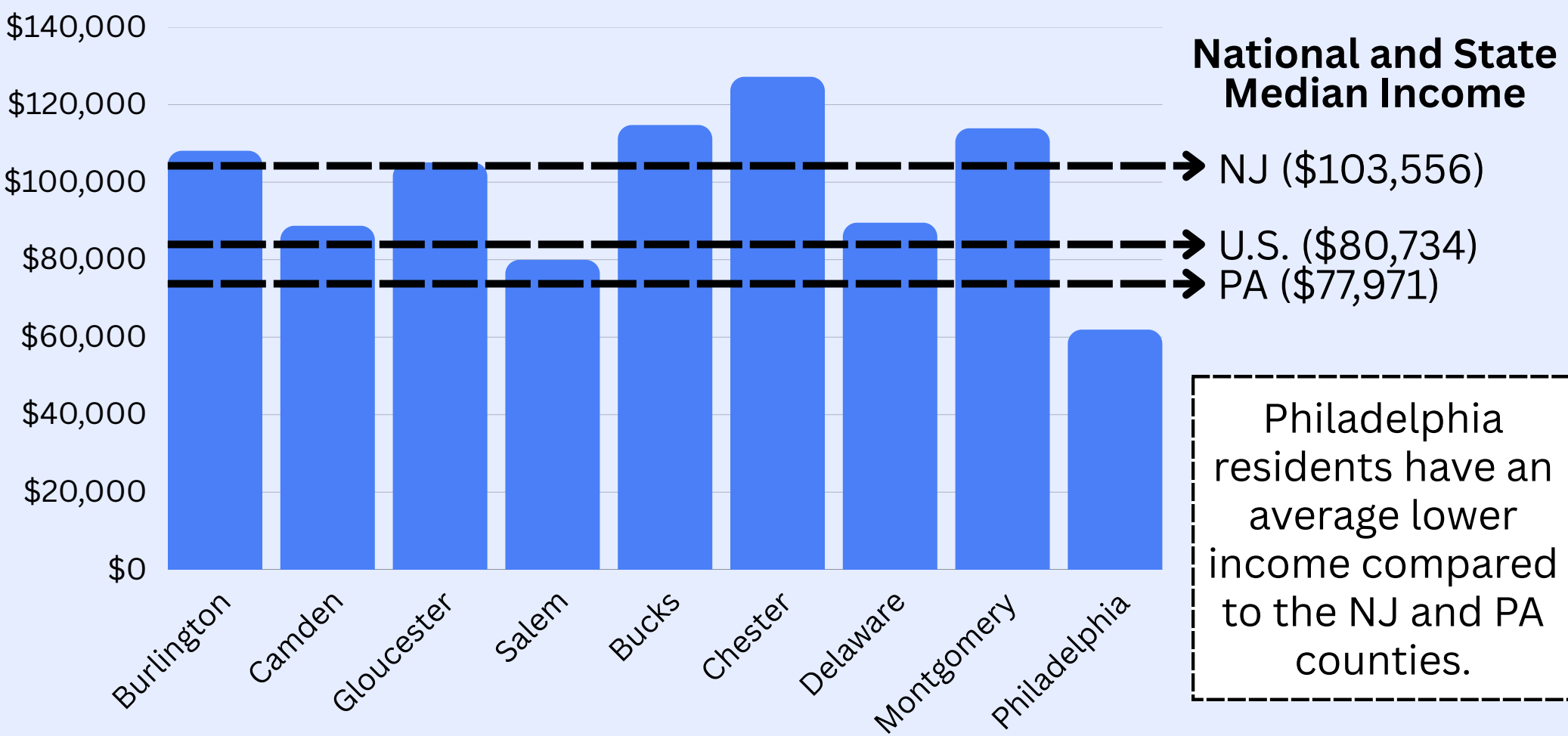
ACS, Table CP03

2024 EMA-Wide Census Data



[Click here for more details on this set of infographics](#)

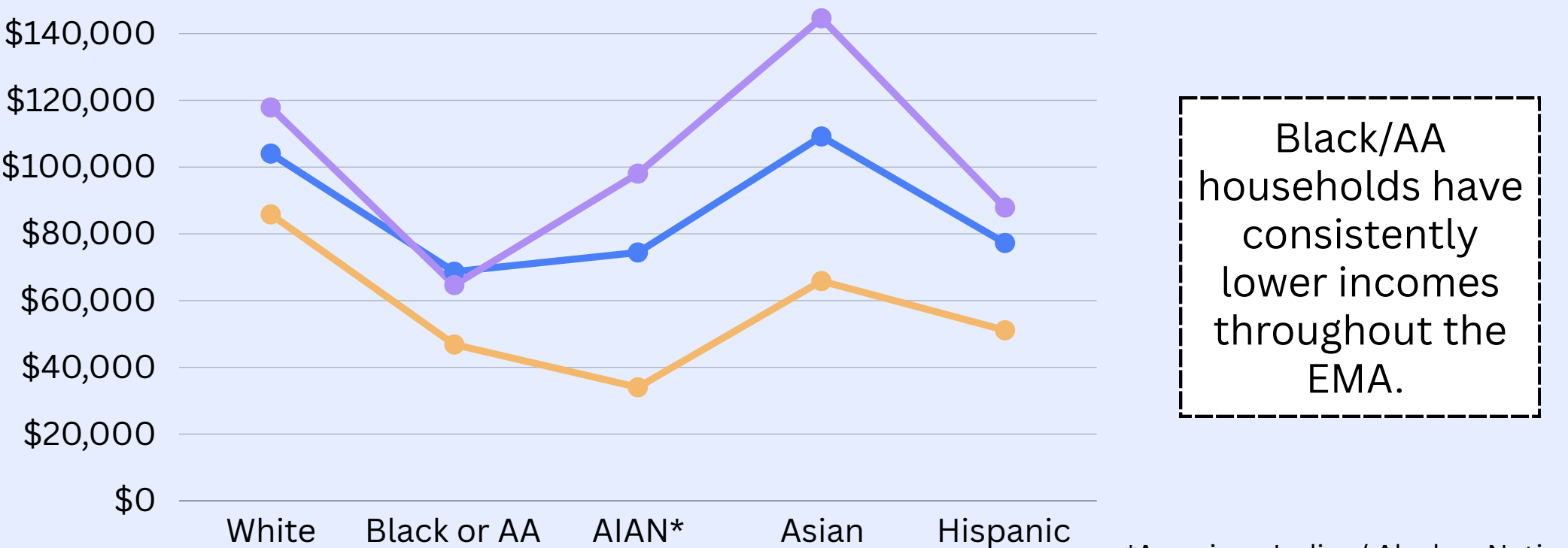
Estimated Median Household Income By County, 2024



Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024 ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1901

Average Household Income by Race/Ethnicity, 2024

● NJ Counties ● PA Counties ● Philadelphia

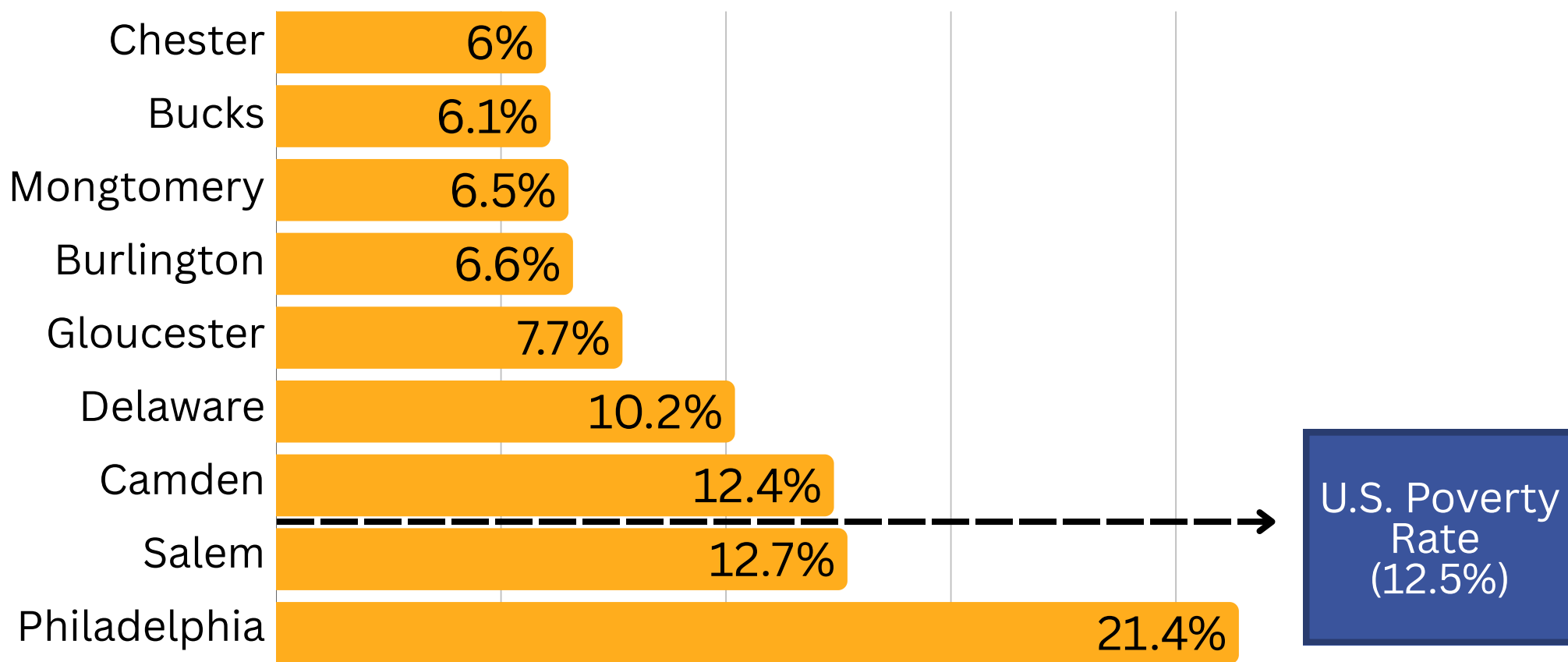


*American Indian/ Alaskan Native

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024 ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1903

2024 EMA-Wide Census Data

Poverty Rate by County, 2024

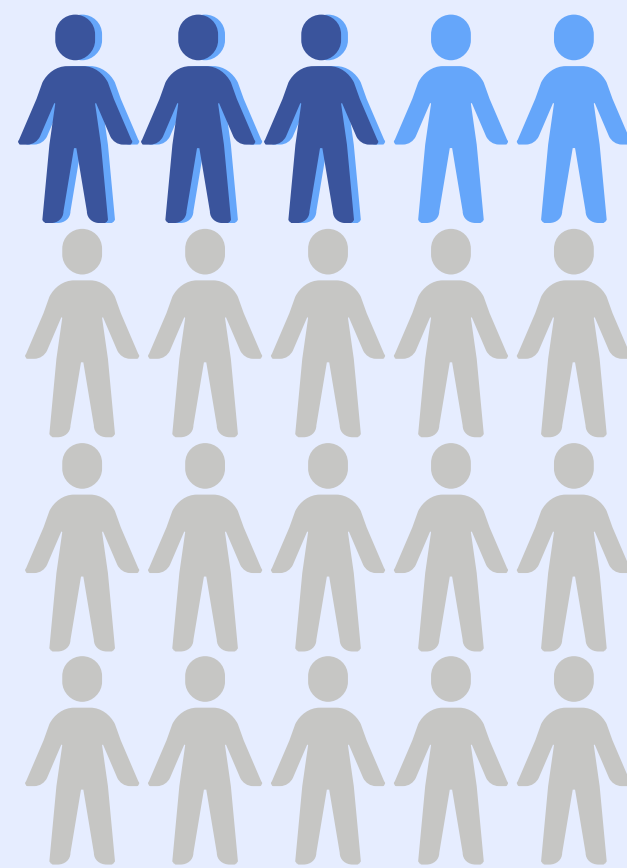


IN THE UNITED STATES

Around 3 in 20 people live at or below the poverty level in 2024

IN PHILADELPHIA

Over 5 in 20 people live at or below the poverty level in 2024

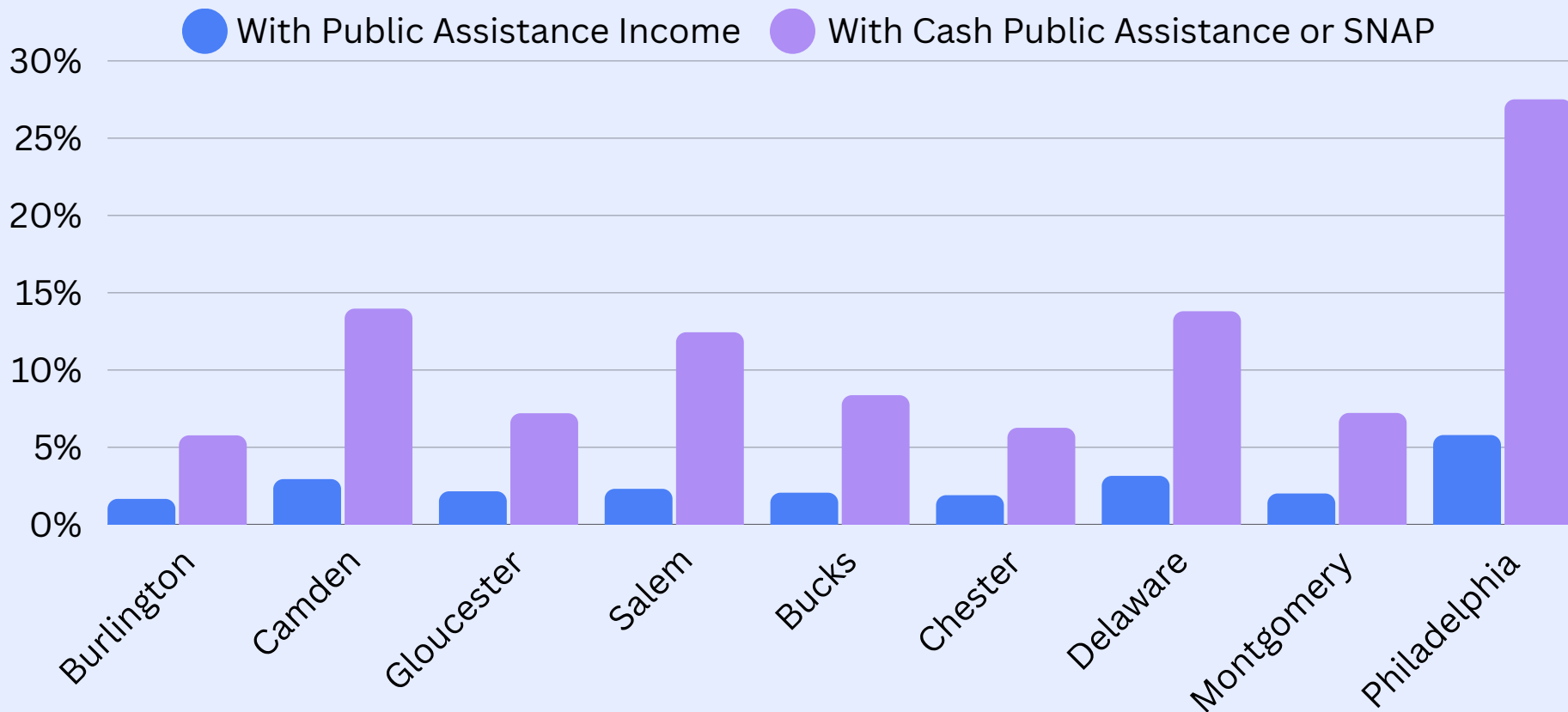


Philadelphia EMA Poverty Profile



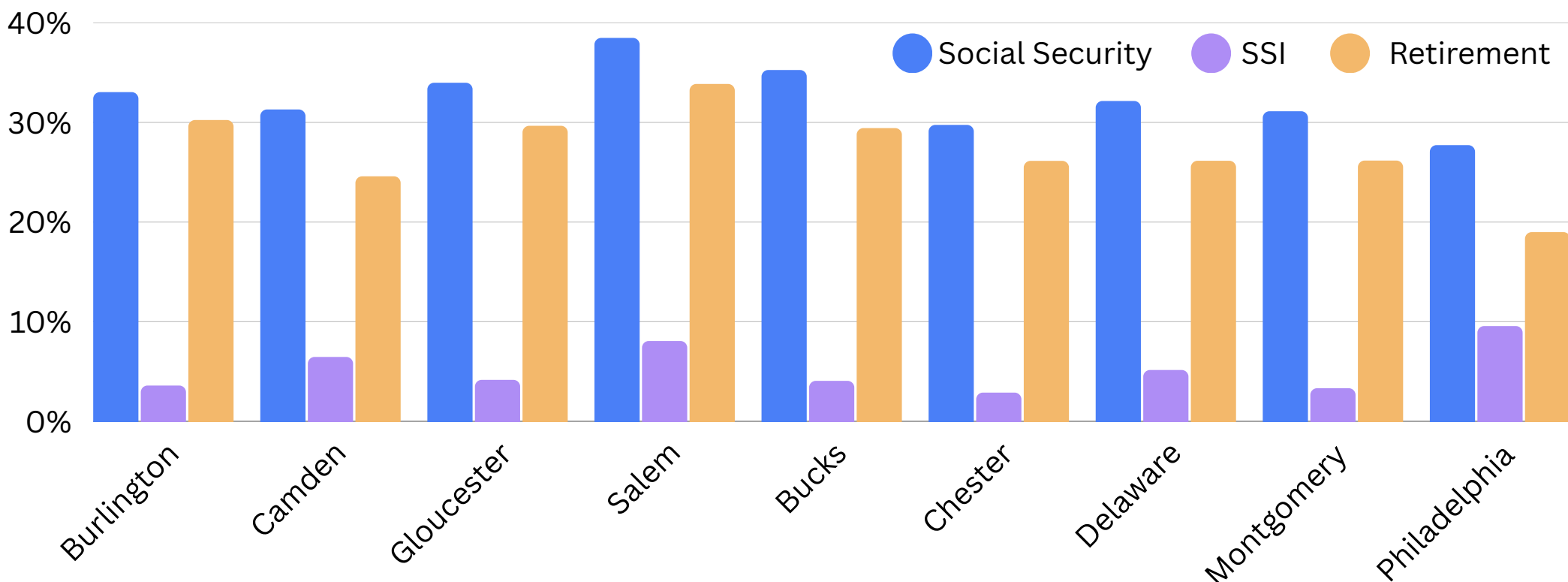
[Click here for more details on this set of infographics](#)

Public Assistance Income in the Past 12 Months for Households by County for the EMA (2023)



Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates, Tables B19057 (PA), B19058 (FS)

Social Security, Supplemental Income, and Retirement Income in the Past 12 Months for Households by County for EMA (2023)

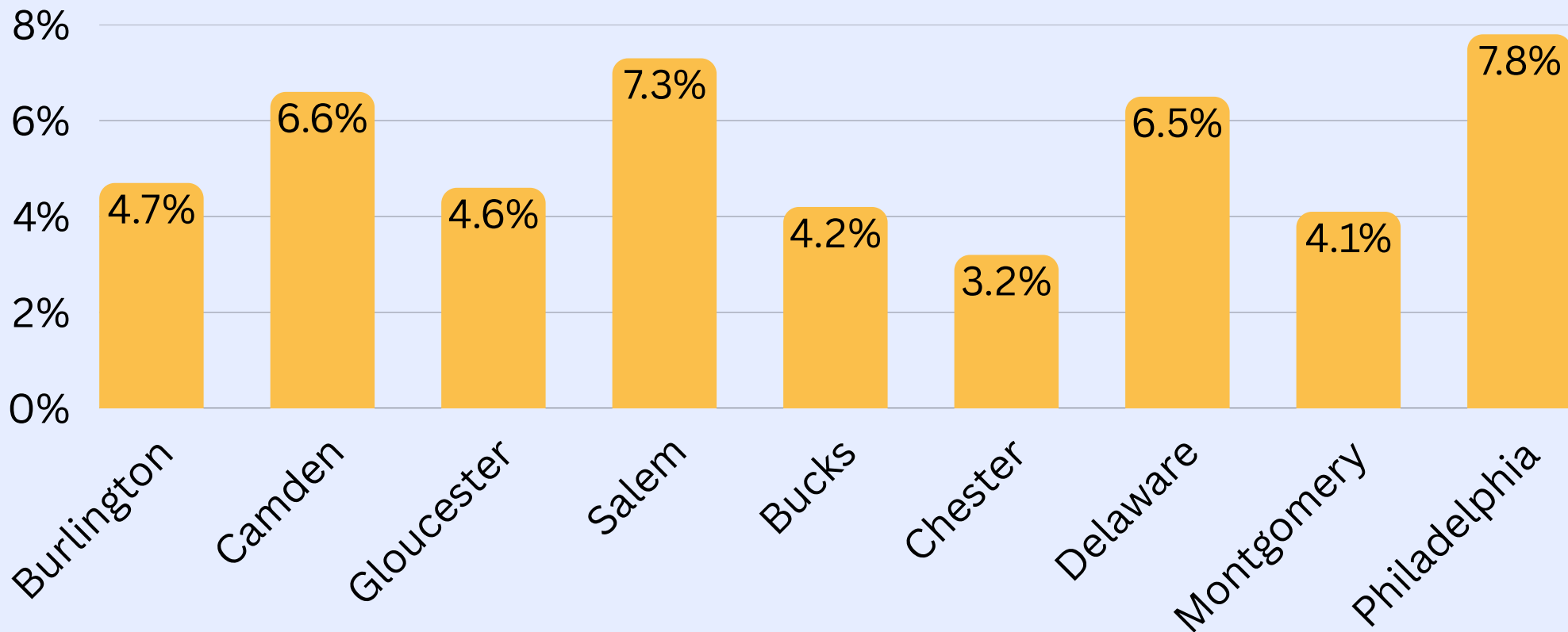


Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates, Tables B19055 (SS), B19056 (SSI), B19057 (PA), B19059 (RI)

Philadelphia EMA Poverty Profile

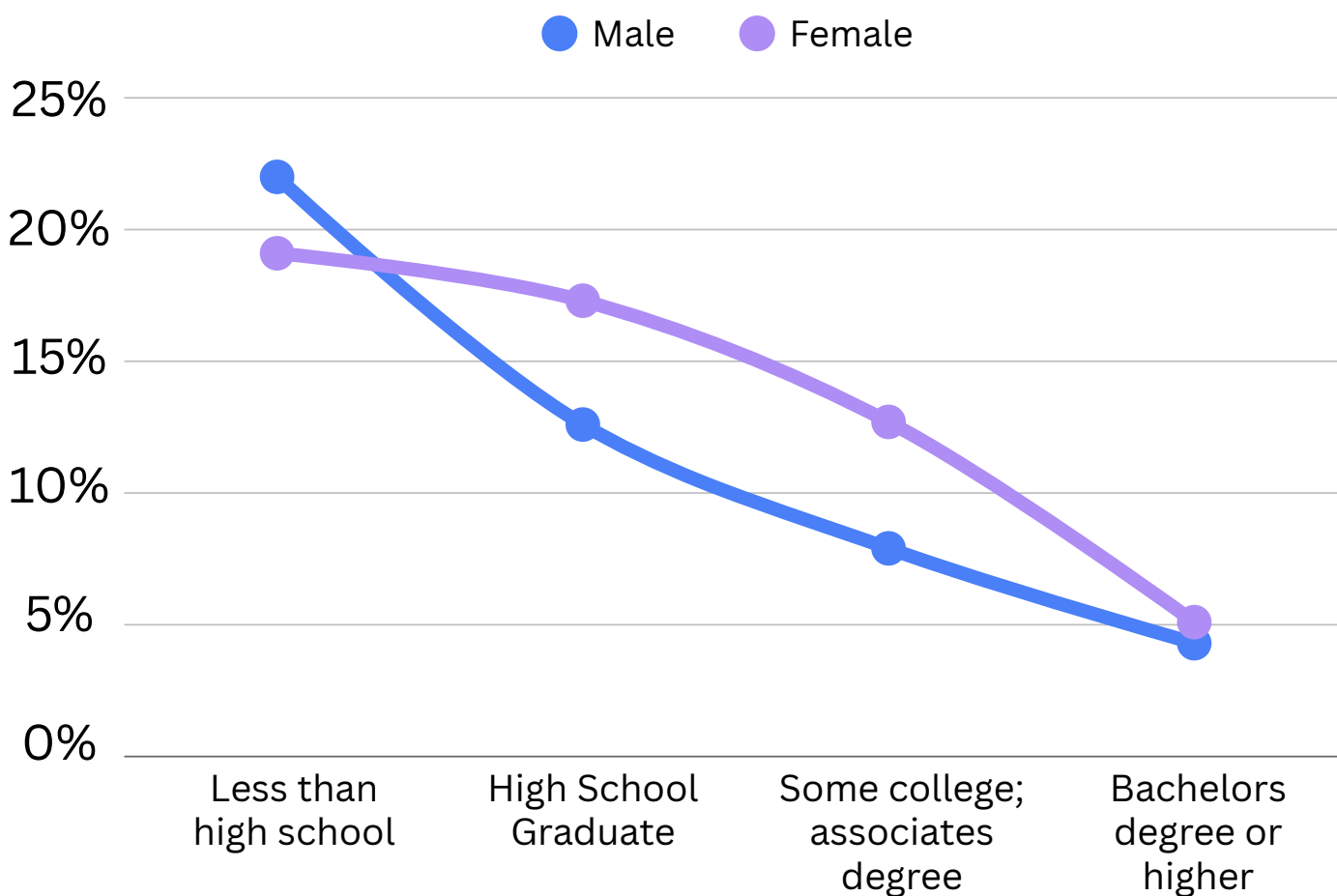


Unemployment Rate for General Population 20-64 Years Old in EMA Counties (2023)



Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates, Table S2301

Poverty Rate by Educational Attainment of General Population 25 Years of Age and Older by Gender, Philadelphia EMA (2023)



Overall, as educational attainment increases, poverty rate decreases. Women generally have higher poverty rates than men. 22% of men who have less than a high school degree are at or below the federal poverty line.

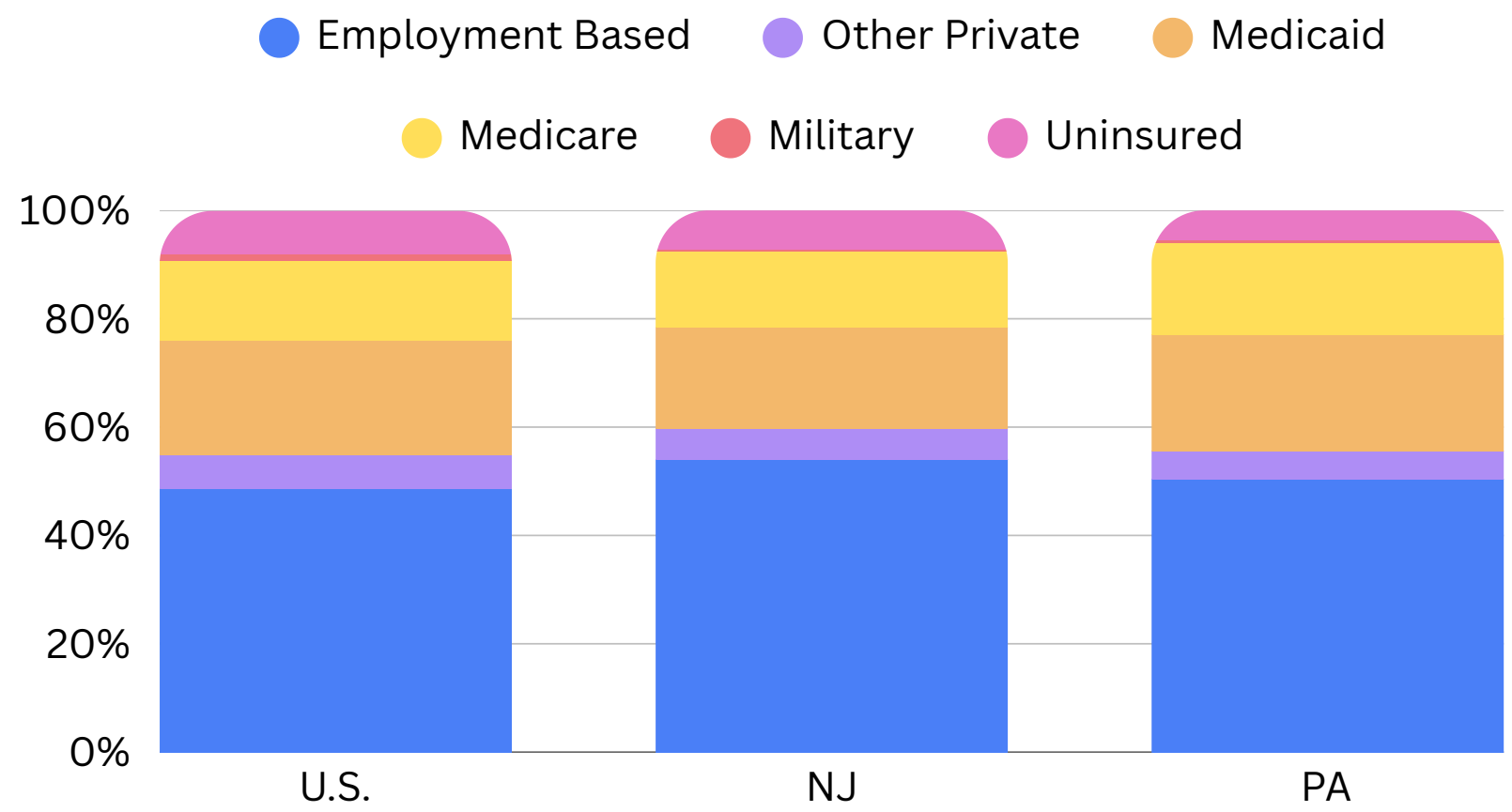
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2023 5-year estimates, Table S1501

Insurance Coverage in the EMA



[Click here for more details on this set of infographics](#)

Health Insurance Coverage Percentages for United States, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania (2023)



About **1 in 5 people** use **Medicaid** for their health insurance in the United States (21.2%), New Jersey (18.7%), and Pennsylvania (21.4%)



About **1 in 2 people** have **employment-based health insurance** in the U.S. (48.6%), NJ (54%), and PA (50.3%).



Data Source: Kaiser Family Foundation estimates based on the 2008-2023 ACS, 1-Year Estimates

Factors Associated with Being Uninsured in the EMA

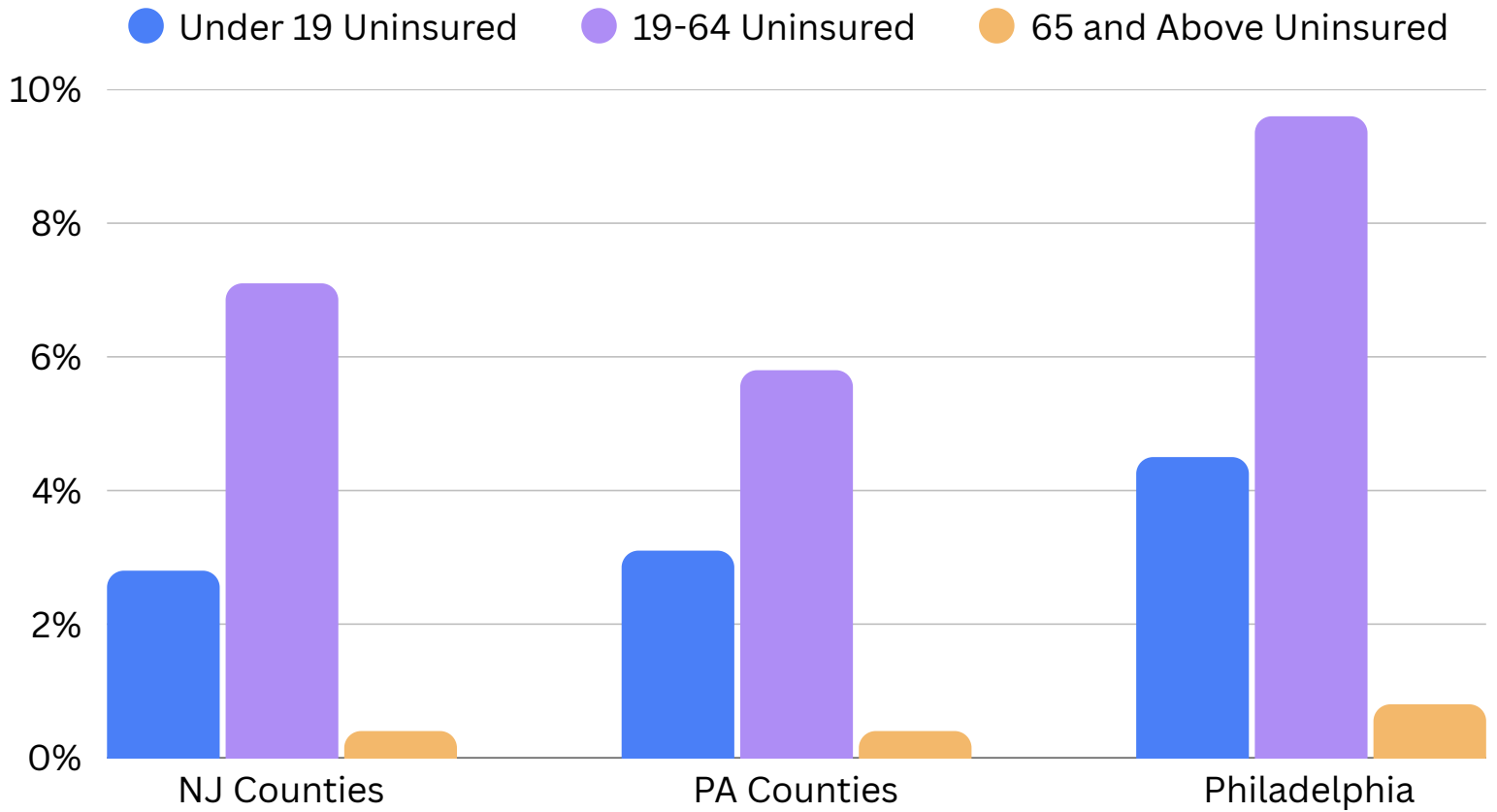
- People aged 19-64 are most likely to be uninsured
- Males were more likely to be uninsured than females

Insurance Coverage in the EMA



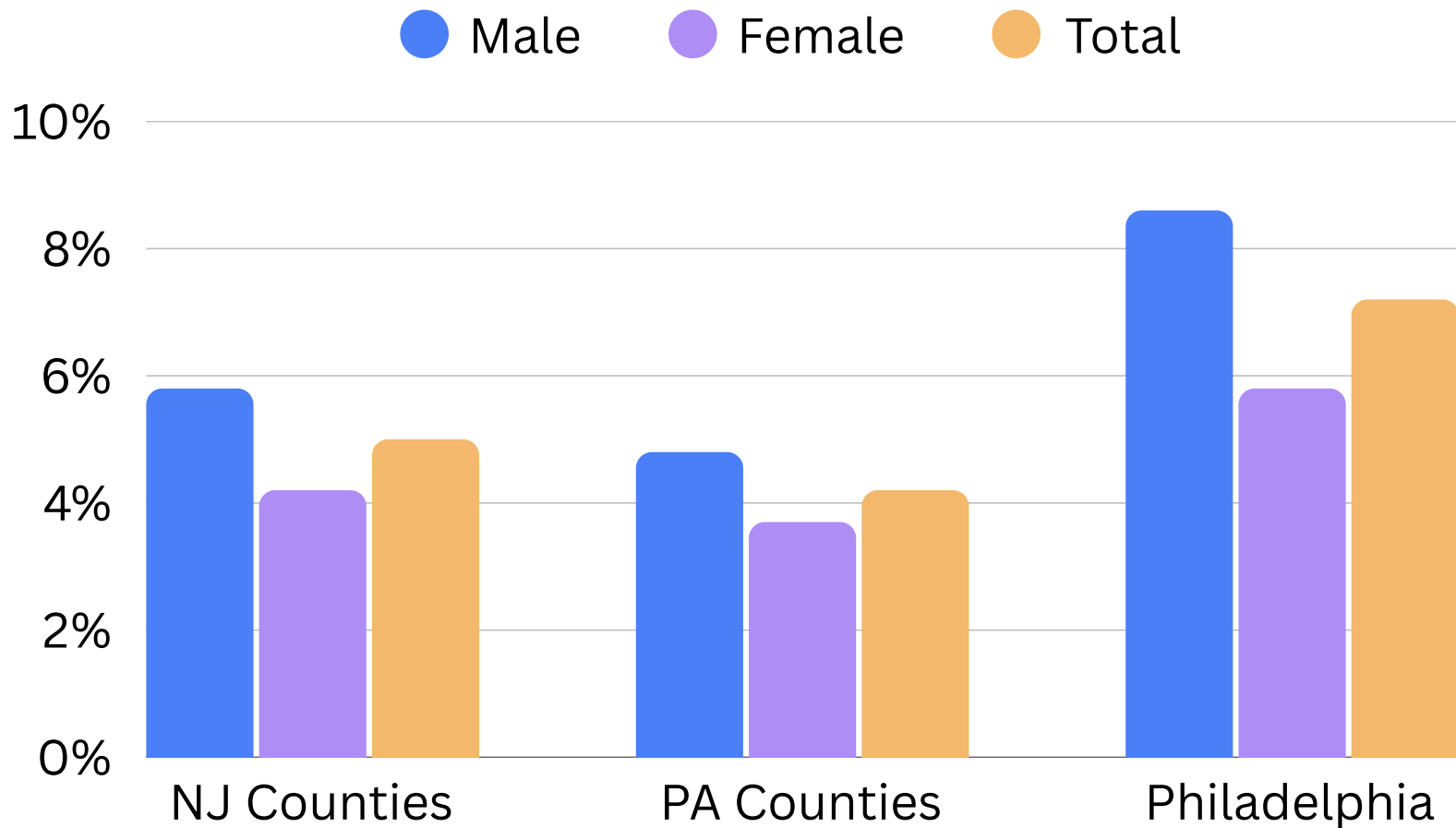
Uninsured Percentage of General Population by Age, 2023

People aged 19-64 are more likely to be uninsured in all EMA counties. Philadelphia has the highest uninsured rate for people 19-64 years old (9.6%).



Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates, Table S2701

Uninsured Percentage of General Population by Sex, 2023



In all EMA county regions, males have a higher uninsured rate than females. Philadelphia has the highest uninsured rate for both males and females (7.2%).

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates, Table S2701

Limited English Speaking Households

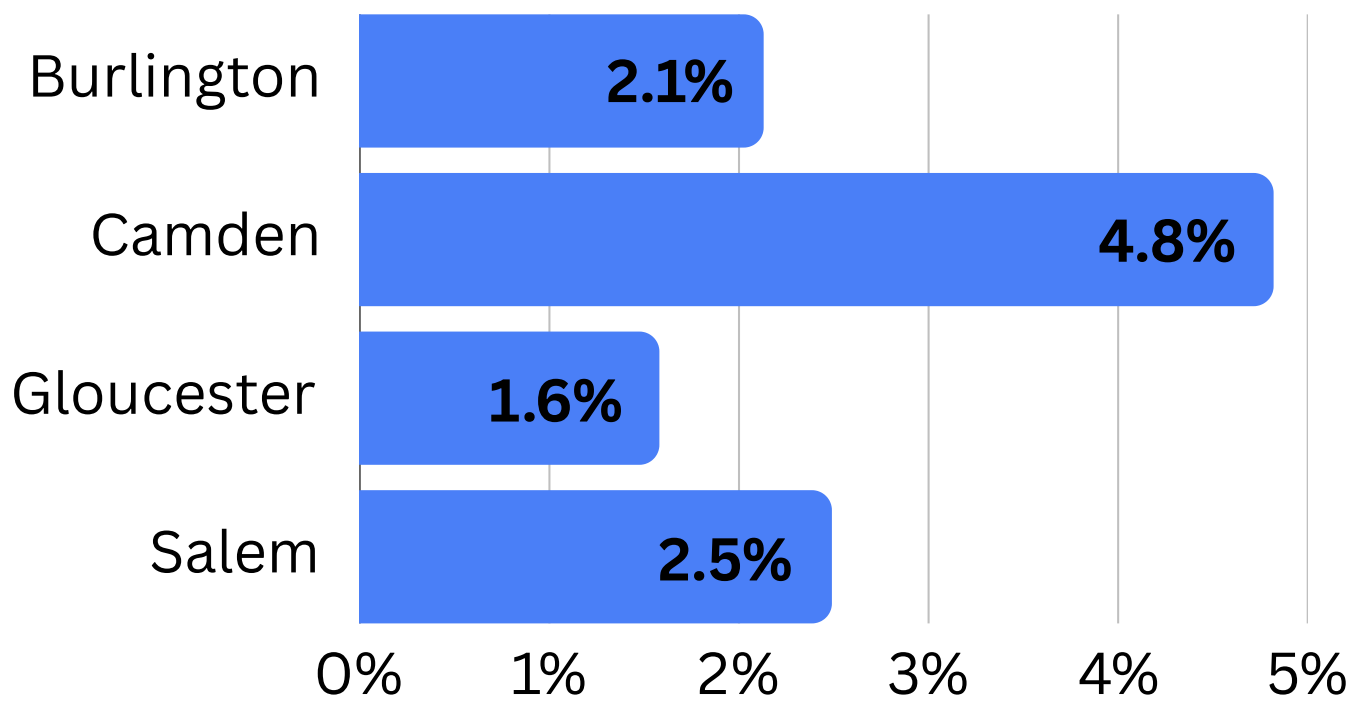


[Click here for more details on this set of infographics](#)

A "limited English speaking household" is one in which no member 14 years old and over (1) speaks only English or (2) speaks a non-English language and speaks English "very well."



Percentage of Limited English Speaking Households within NJ Counties, 2023



Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates, Table B16002

Of the four EMA New Jersey counties, **Camden County** has the highest percentage of Limited English Speaking Households (2023) with

4.8%

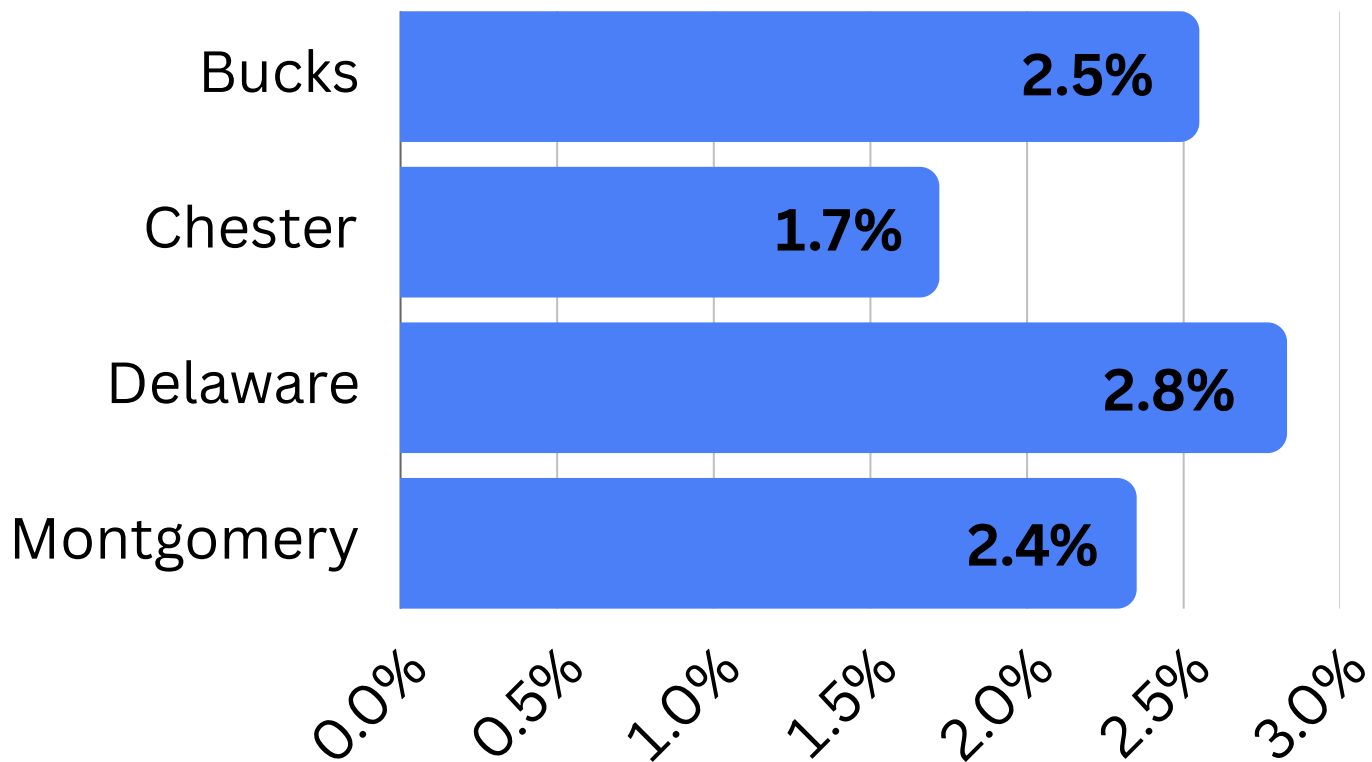
Limited English Speaking Households

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates, Table B16002

Limited English Speaking Households



Percentage of Limited English Speaking Households within PA Counties, 2023



Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates, Table B16002

In the EMA, **Philadelphia County** has the highest percentage of limited English Speaking Households (2023) with

7%

Limited English Speaking Households

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates, Table B16002

Philadelphia has a much higher proportion of limited English-speaking households than any of the surrounding EMA counties at 7%. Camden county also stands out with 4.8% limited English speaking households. This implies a language barrier that may affect access and quality of care.



While **80.8%** of households in the Philadelphia EMA speak only English, **7.6% speak Spanish**, either alone or alongside English.

Sexual Education

[Click here for more details on this set of infographics](#)

Comprehensive Sex Education Laws by State

New Jersey

- ✓ Required, but must stress abstinence
- ✓ Must include HIV & STI instruction
- ✓ Must include sexual orientation, gender identity, and consent
- ✓ Curriculum must be medically accurate

Pennsylvania

- ✗ Not required, but must stress abstinence
- ✓ Must include HIV & STI instruction
- ✗ Not required to include sexual orientation, gender identity, or consent
- ✗ Curriculum not required to be medically accurate

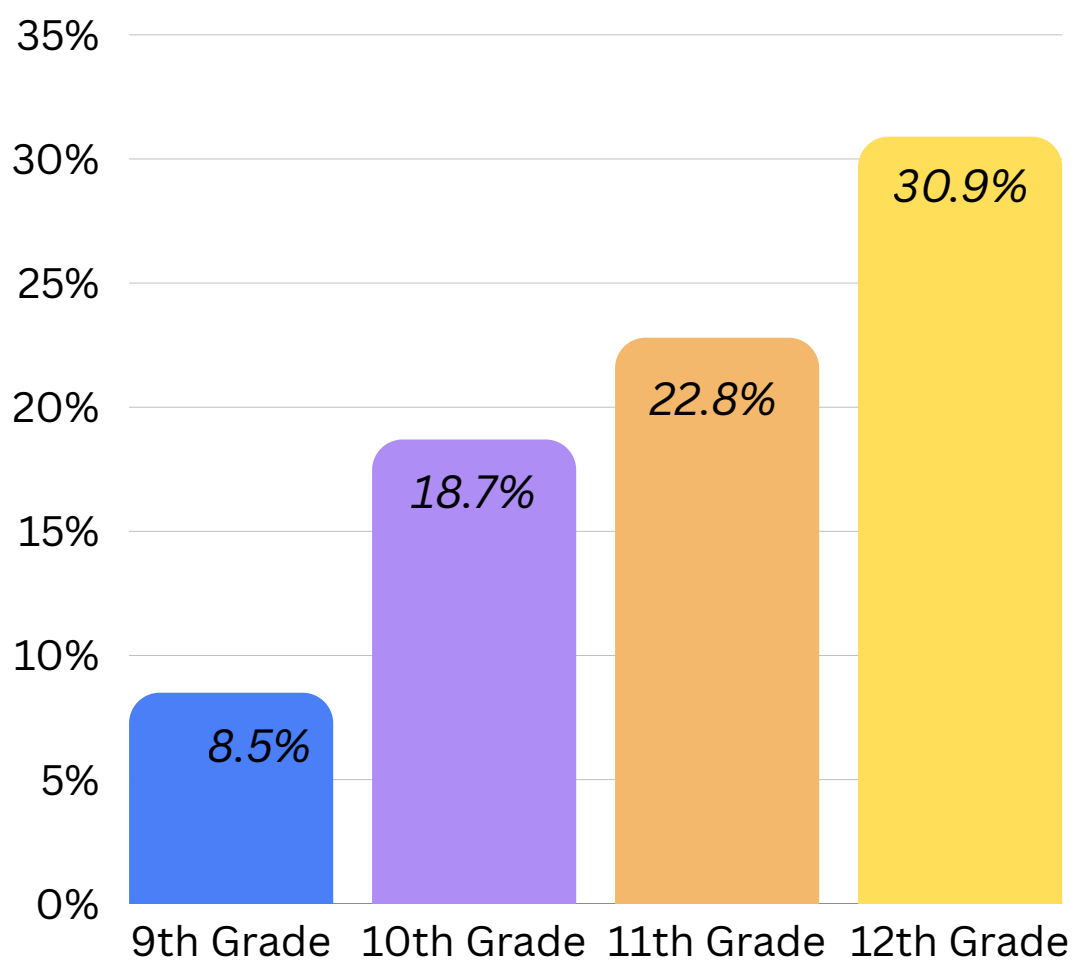
While New Jersey has seen success in advancing sex education, Pennsylvania remains one of the few states that do not require comprehensive sexual education.

Sexual Activity

[Click here for more details on this set of infographics](#)

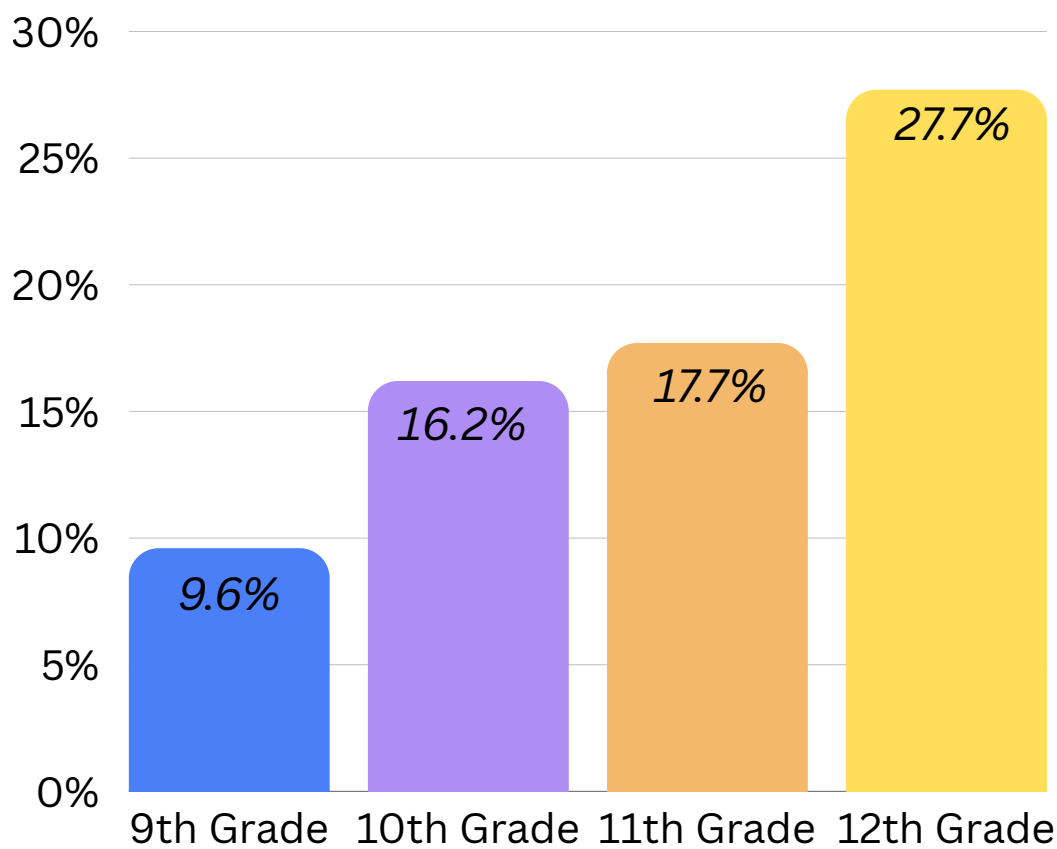
Sexual Activity and Condom Use for High School Students in Philadelphia by Grade (2023)

Currently Sexually Active*



**Currently sexually active refers to students who had sexual intercourse with at least one person during the past 3 months*

Did Not Use Condom at Last Sexual Intercourse*



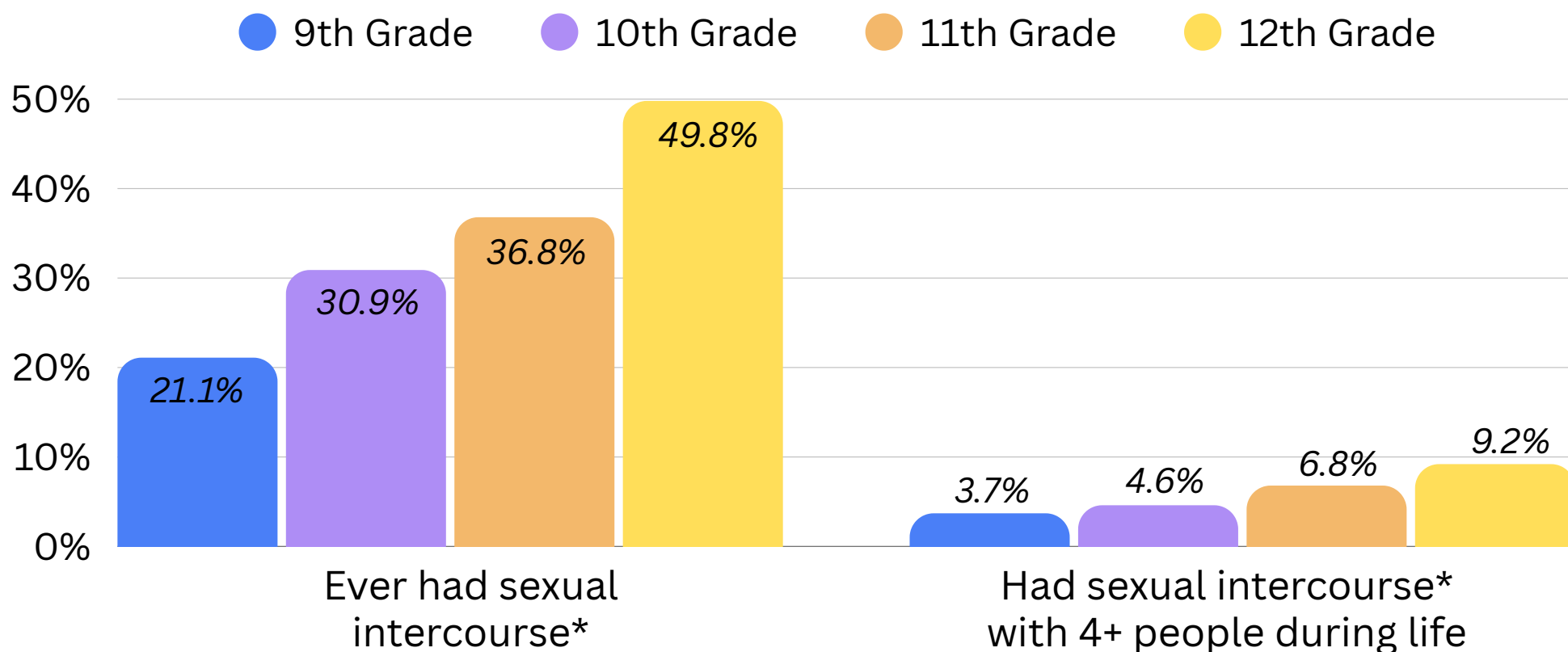
**Did not use condom during last sexual intercourse among those who were sexually active*

Data is collected from the Philadelphia population and does not include suburban counties in New Jersey or Pennsylvania.

As students progress through high school, they are more likely to be sexually active, but are also more likely to engage in unprotected sex.

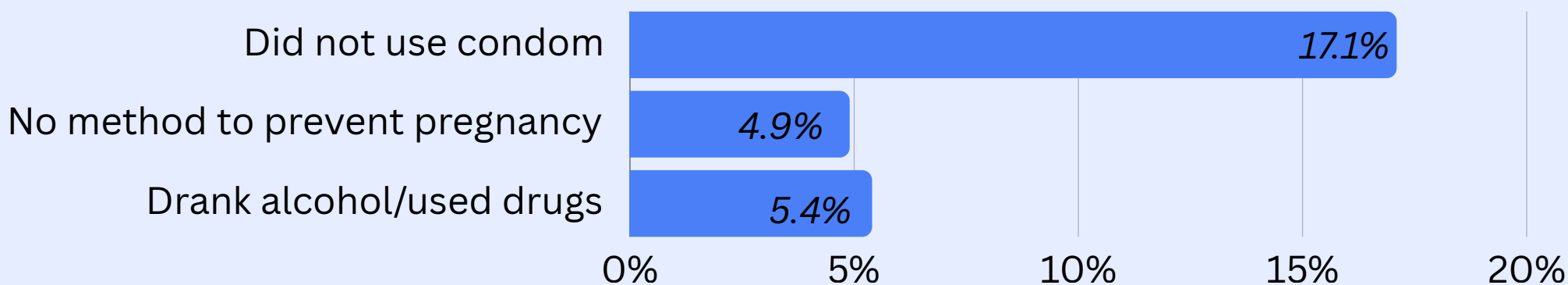
Youth in Philadelphia

Sexual Activity in High School Students in Philadelphia by Grade (2023)



*Sexual intercourse is self-defined by respondent

Behaviors During Last Sexual Intercourse* Among Sexually Active Philadelphia High School Students (2023)



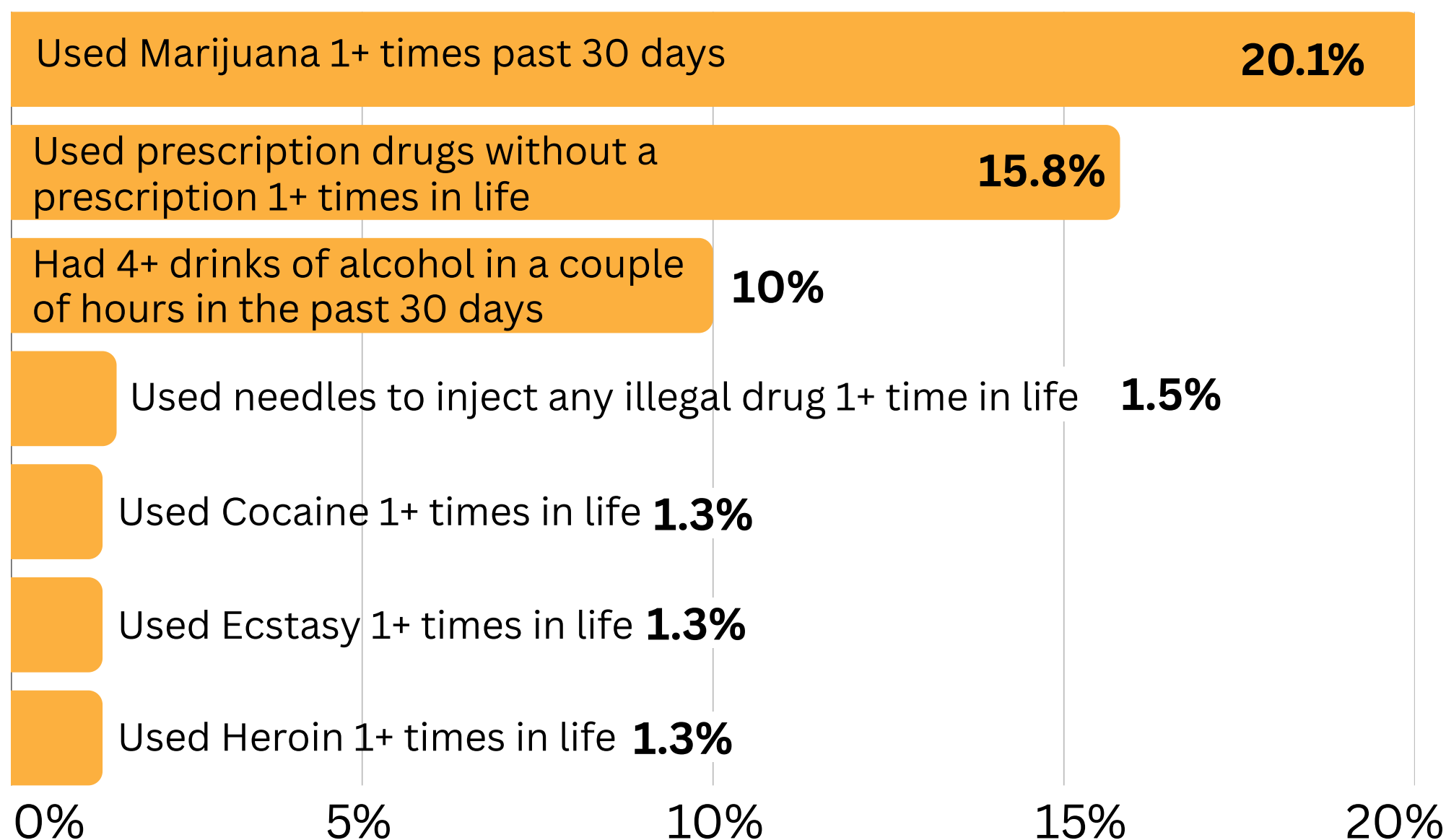
*Sexual intercourse is self-defined by respondent

As students progress through high school, sexual activities increase. Students who have ever had sexual intercourse went from 21% (9th grade) to nearly 50% (12th grade). A notable share of sexually active students engage in risky behaviors including not using condoms (17.1%).

Youth in Philadelphia

[Click here for more details on this set of infographics](#)

Drug and Alcohol Use Among Philadelphia High School Students (2023)



Over **1/5 of respondents** reported they **used marijuana** at least once in the past month. **Almost 16%** of respondents reported **using prescription medications without a prescription** at least once in their life.

Discussion Item: Housing



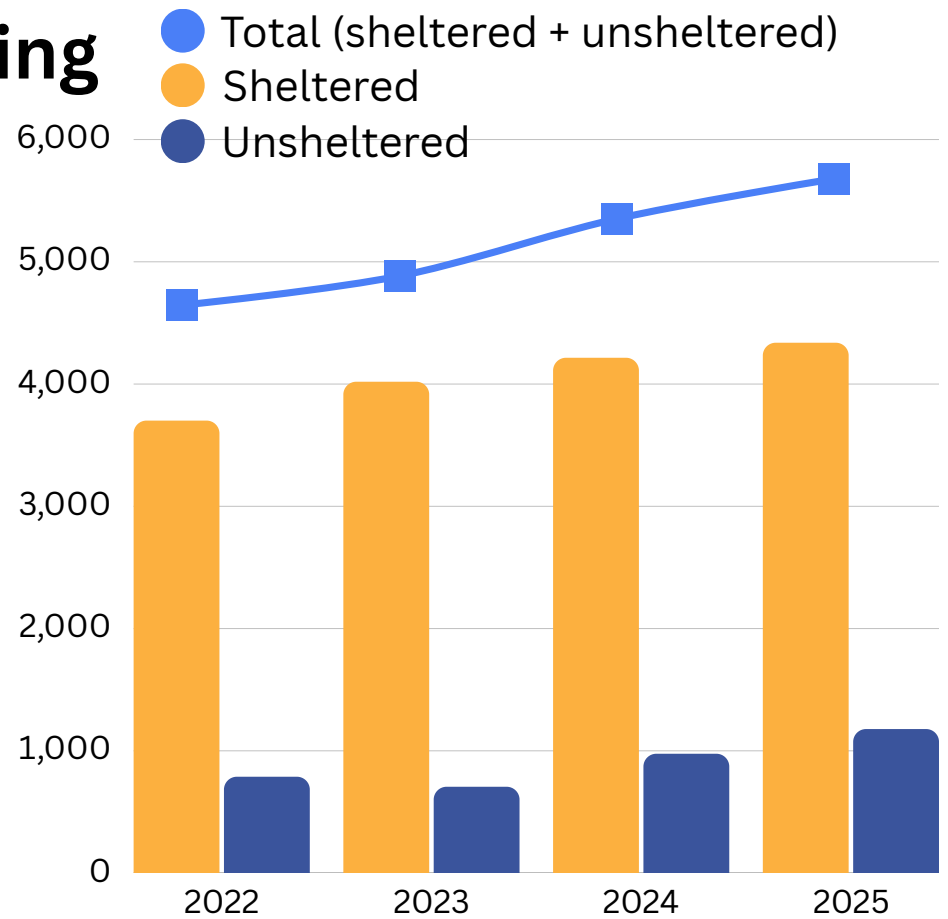
**Data excludes people living in car, in abandoned buildings, couch surfing, etc.*

[Click here for more details on this set of infographics](#)

The number of people experiencing homelessness in Philadelphia*

Data collected is a census of people experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness on a single night in January (Point in Time [PIT] Count).

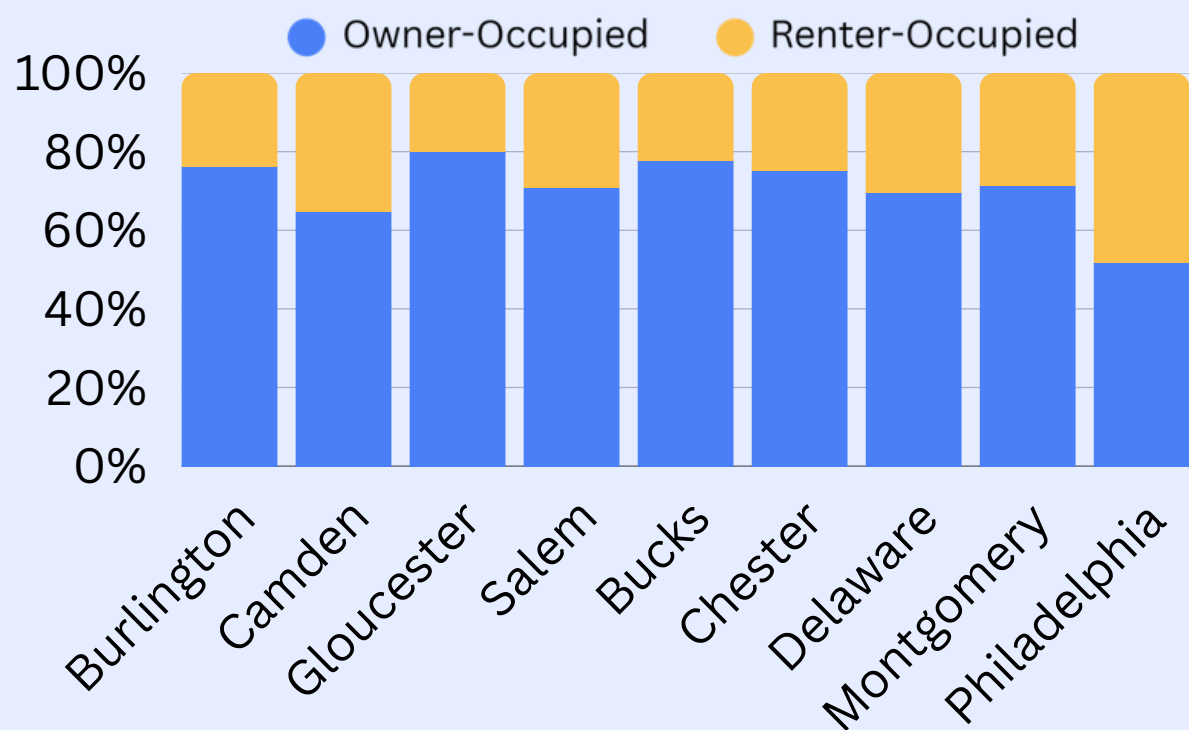
In Philadelphia, there was a **22.9% increase** in people experiencing homelessness from 4,489 in 2022 to 5,516 in 2025.



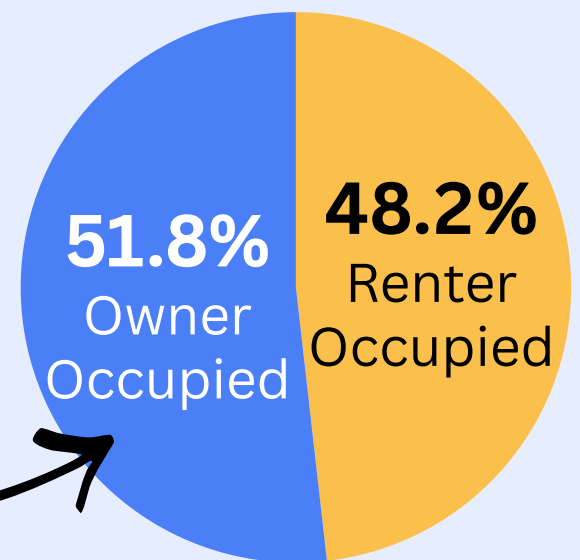
Data Source: Philadelphia 2024 PIT Count

Data Source: 2025 PIT Count Summary Report

Housing Tenure of Occupied Housing Units by County (2024)



In Philadelphia:



While most counties had a majority of owner-occupied housing, Philadelphia was nearly evenly split at **51.8% owner-occupied and 48.2% renter-occupied.**

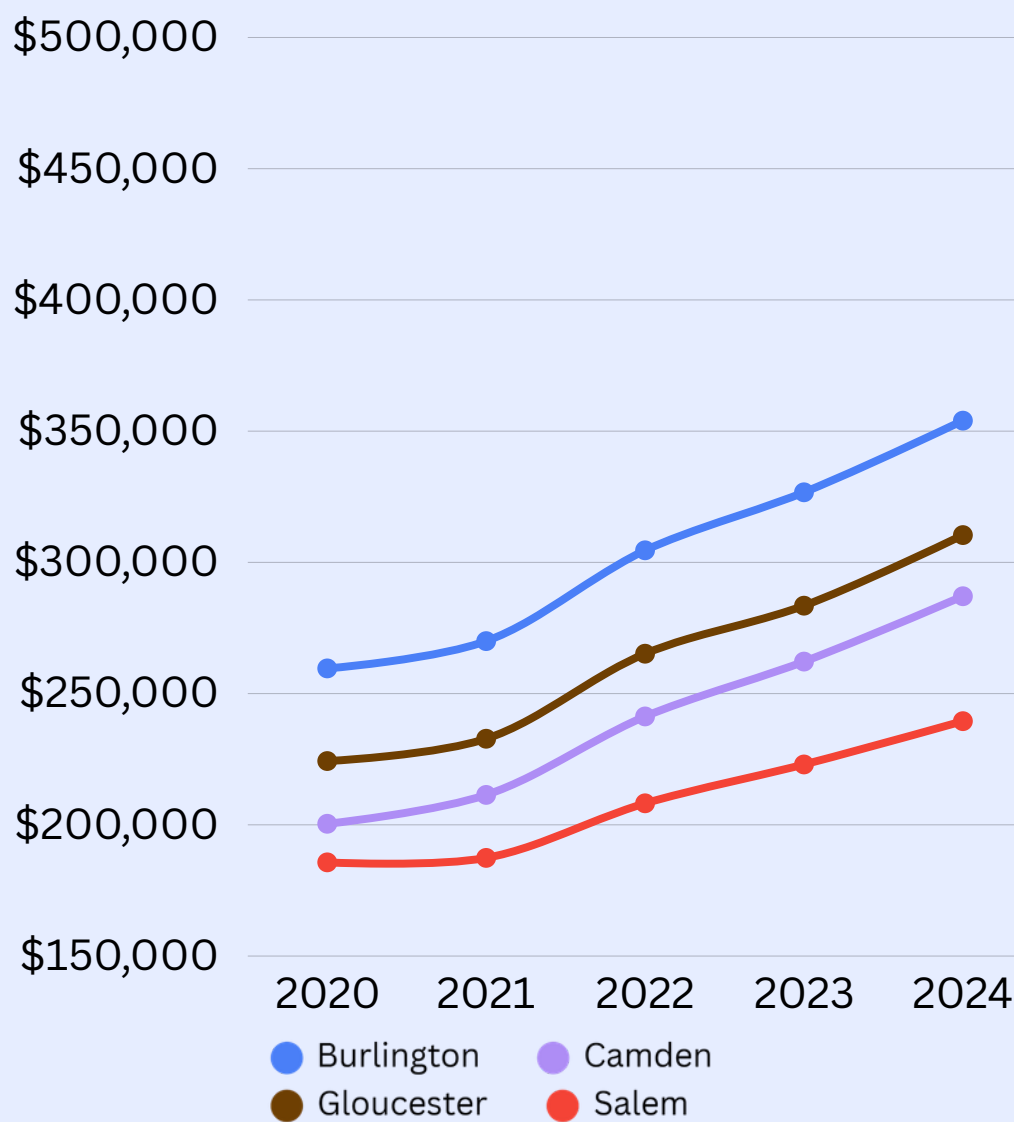
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024, 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table DP04

Discussion Item: Housing

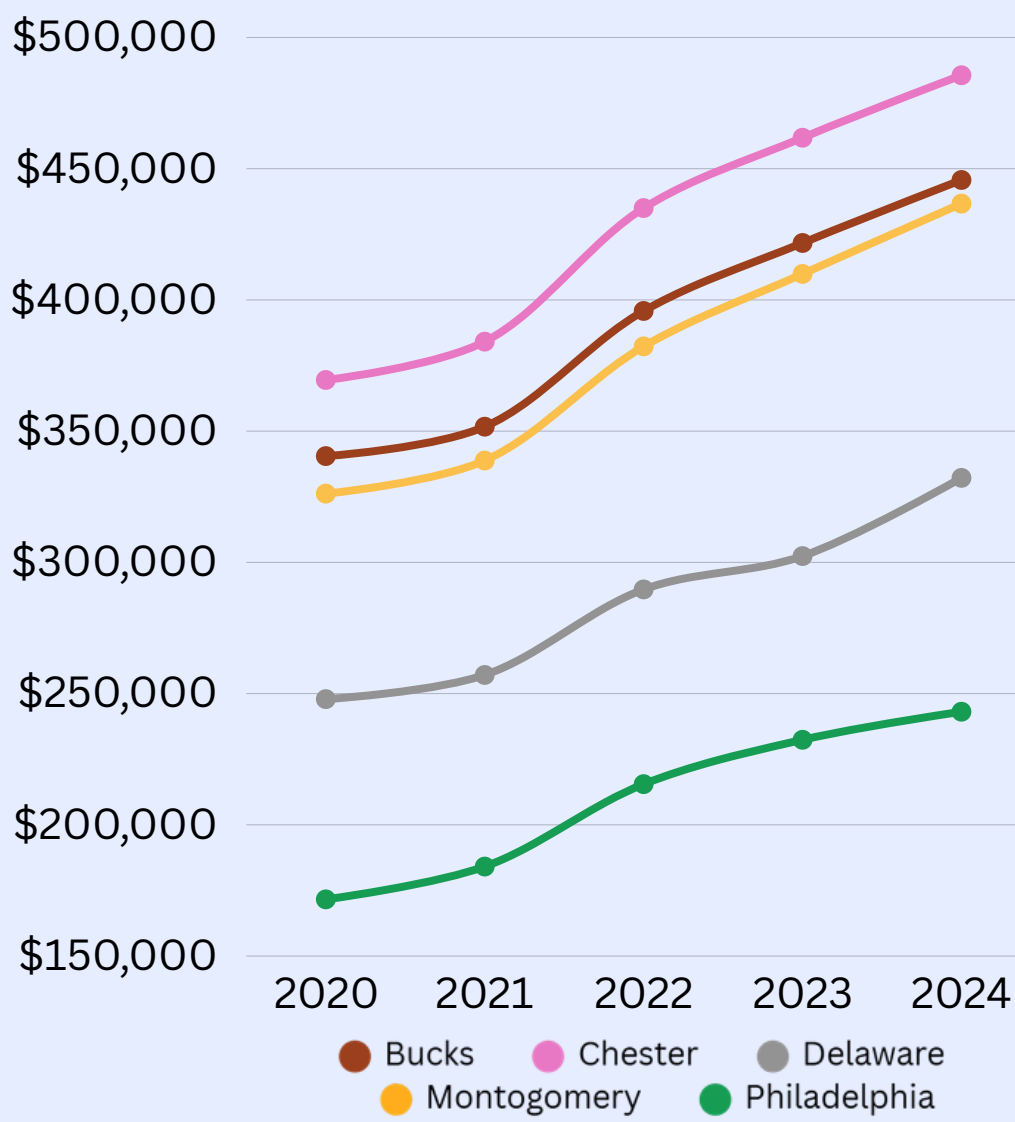


Median Value of Owner Occupied Units by County (2024)

New Jersey Counties



Pennsylvania Counties



Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024, 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table DP04

Urban and rural counties (Philadelphia, Camden, Salem) report **lower value** of owner occupied units compared to more suburban counties (Chester, Bucks).

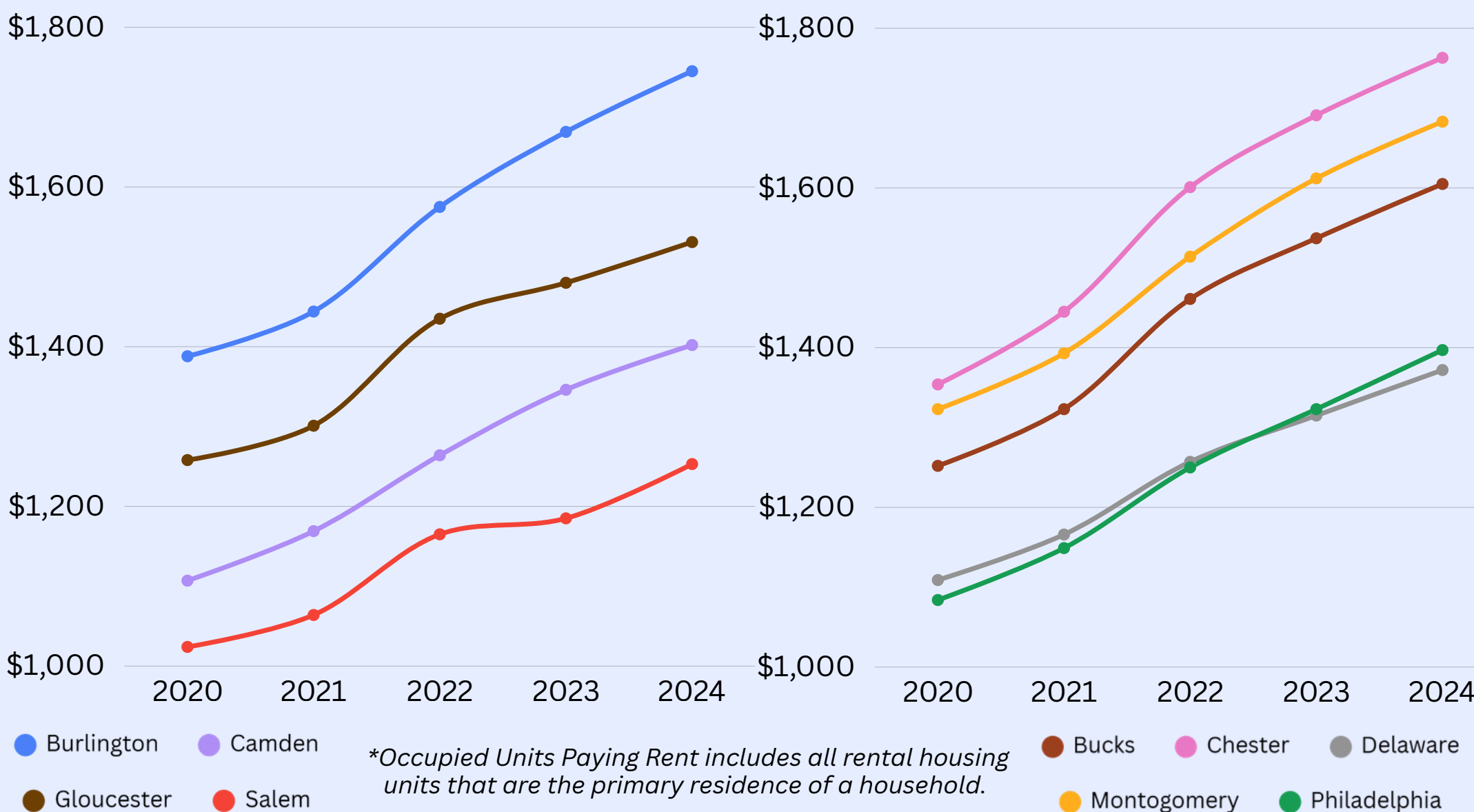
In 2024, Chester county had the **highest value** of owner occupied units at **\$485,600**. Salem county had the **lowest value** at **\$239,500**.

From 2020 to 2024, the median value of owner-occupied homes **has increased in every county** within the EMA. This indicates a steady rise in housing costs throughout the region.

Discussion Item: Housing



Median Monthly Rent for Occupied Units Paying Rent* (2024)



Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024, 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table DP04

From 2020 to 2024, the median rent **has increased in every county** within the EMA which indicates a steady rise in housing costs throughout the region.

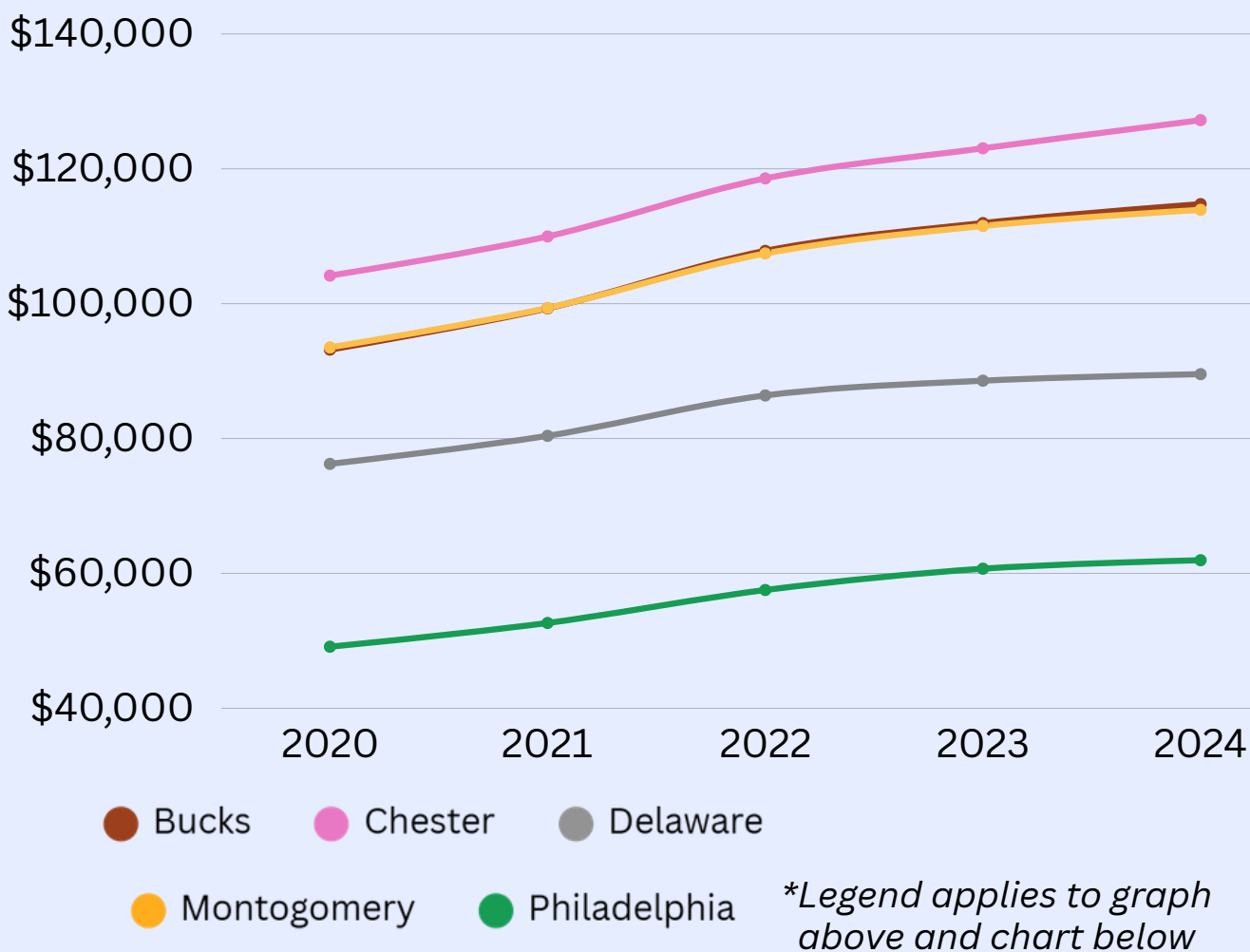
In 2024, Chester County had the **highest median rent** (\$1,763), while Salem had the **lowest** (\$1,253). Pennsylvania counties saw a **larger increase** (27.6%) than New Jersey counties (24.1%).

Rent increases may be caused by a variety of factors such as **high demand, higher landlord costs, and gentrification** which limits affordable housing.

Discussion Item: Housing



Estimated Median Household Income by PA EMA Counties (2024)



In 2024, Chester county has the **highest** median household income at **\$127,208** which is over **double** the median household income of Philadelphia, who has the **lowest** median household income of **\$61,953**.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024, 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1901

Rate of Increase from 2020 to 2024

| Income | Value of owner occupied units | | Rent | |
|--------|-------------------------------|-------|-------|--|
| 22.1% | 31.4% | 30.2% | 30.2% | |
| 23.2% | 30.9% | 28.2% | 28.2% | |
| 21.8% | 33.9% | 27.2% | 27.2% | |
| 17.5% | 33.9% | 23.7% | 23.7% | |
| 26.1% | 41.7% | 28.9% | 28.9% | |

On average, more than **2 in 5 renter households** in the EMA spend **35% or more of their income on rent (2024)**

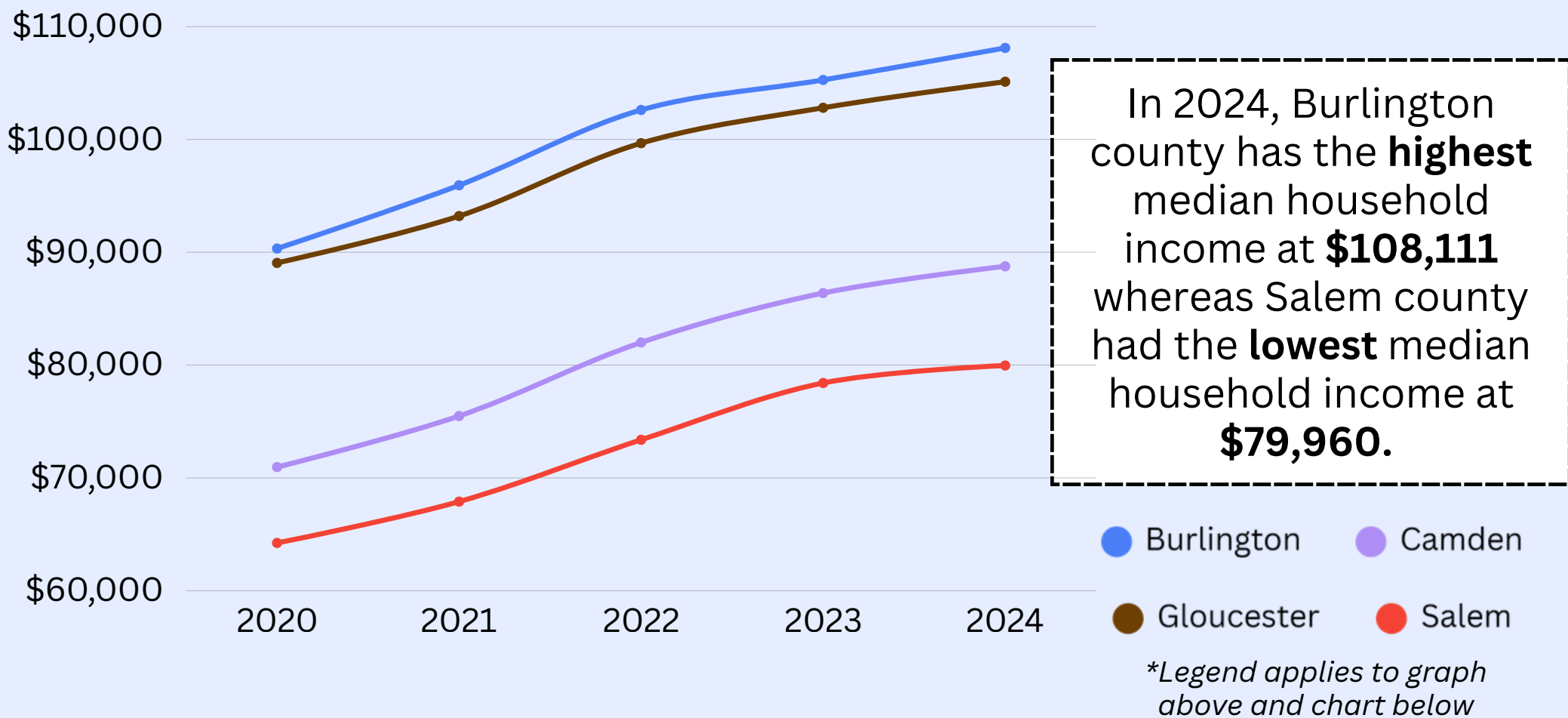


Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024, 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table DP04

Discussion Item: Housing



Estimated Median Household Income by NJ EMA County (2024)



Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024, 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1901

Rate of Increase from 2020 to 2024

| Income | Value of owner occupied units | Rent |
|--------|-------------------------------|-------|
| 19.7% | 36.4% | 25.7% |
| 18% | 38.4% | 21.7% |
| 25.1% | 43.3% | 26.6% |
| 24.5% | 29% | 22.4% |

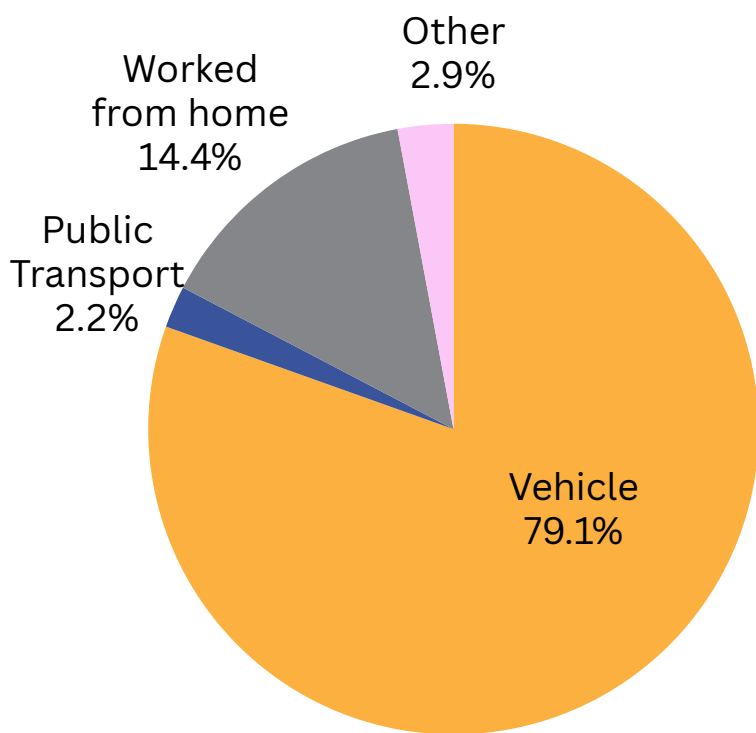
Key Takeaway: When comparing changes in monthly rent, owner-occupied unit values, and median household income, both **rent and unit values are rising faster than household income**. This gap is making housing increasingly unaffordable for many households.

Discussion Item: Transportation

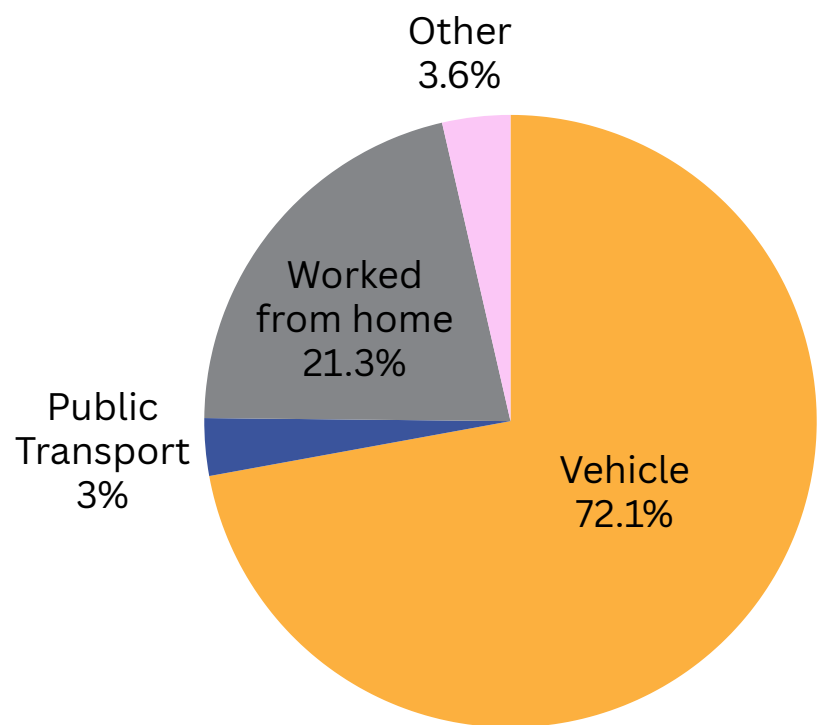
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EMA-Wide Modes of Transportation to Work in Workers over 16 Years Old (2024)

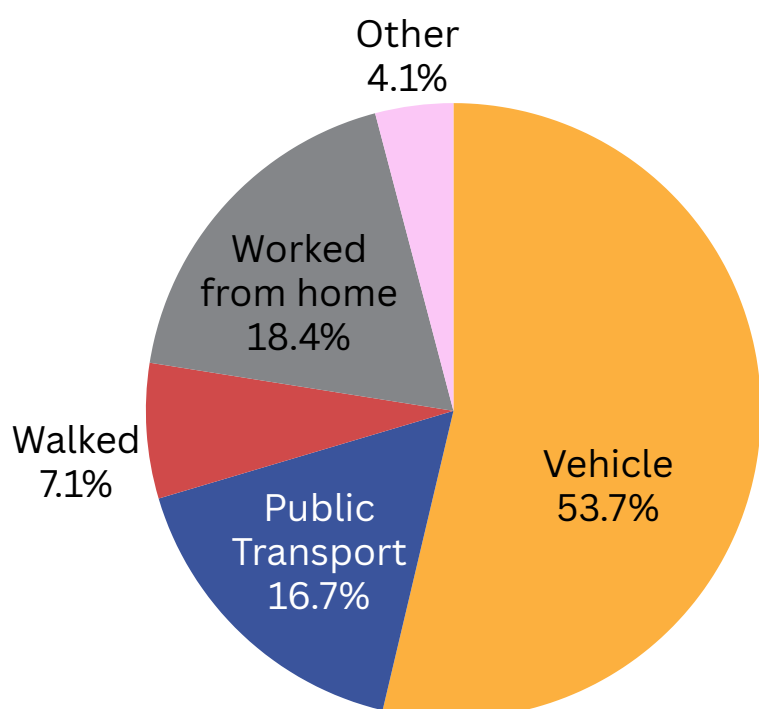
Average of NJ Counties



Average of PA Counties



Philadelphia County



The majority of commuters **rely on private vehicles** to get to work.

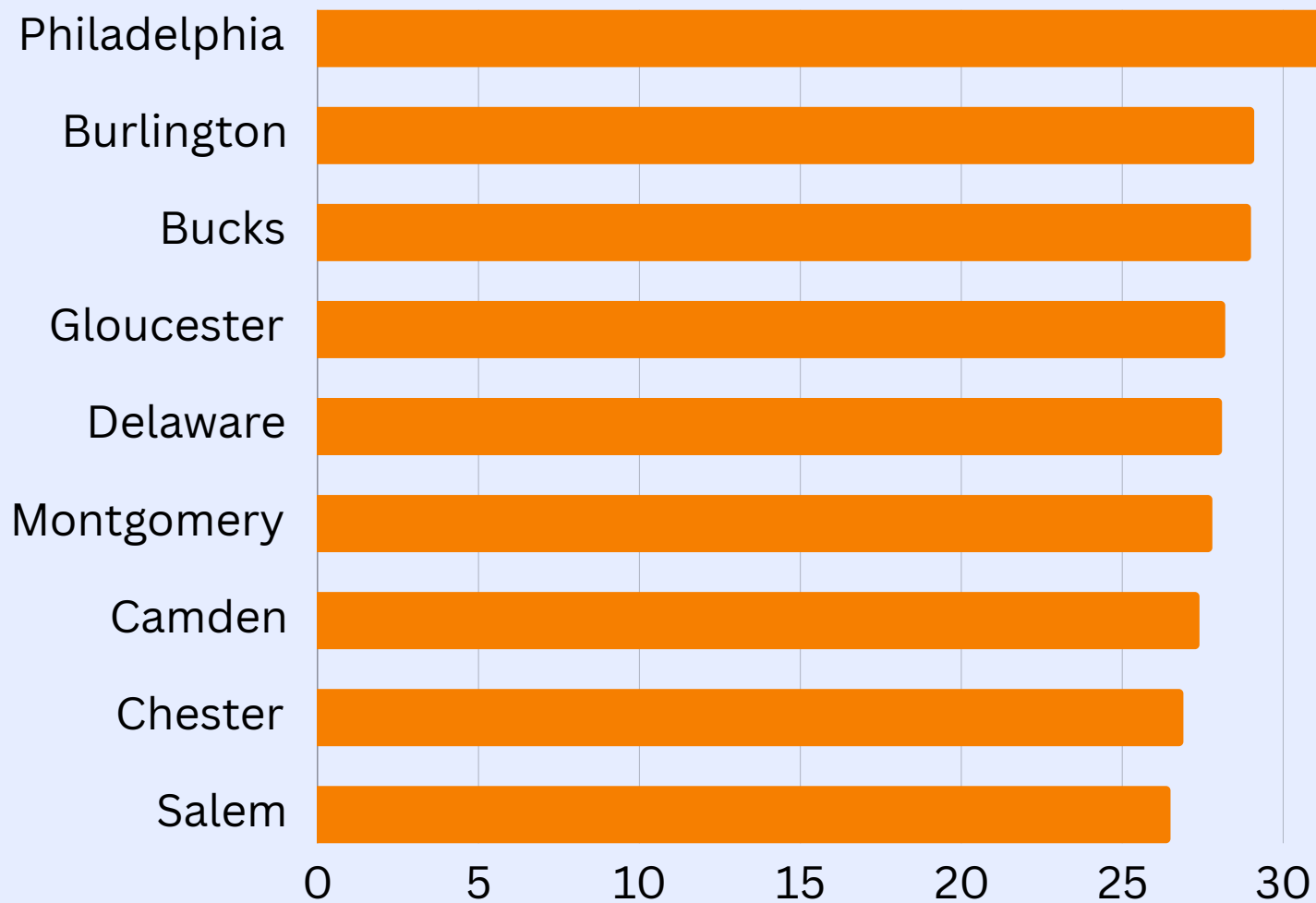
Public transportation **varies** with the PA and NJ Counties using less than 3% individually, but **over 16% in Philadelphia**.

Modes of transportation differs between Philadelphia and the surrounding counties, which may show **a difference in transportation access** within the EMA population.

*Other: Bike, walk (PA/NJ), taxi or ride-hailing services, motorcycle, or other means

Discussion Item: Transportation

Average Travel to Work Time by EMA County, 2024



Philadelphia County has the **longest** travel to work time at **31.7 minutes** despite **78.3%** of residents working within the county.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024, 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0801

NJ counties experience an average **higher rate** of individuals who work out of the state of residence (13.9%) compared to PA counties (6.6%).

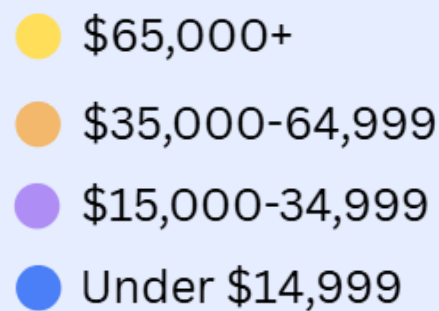
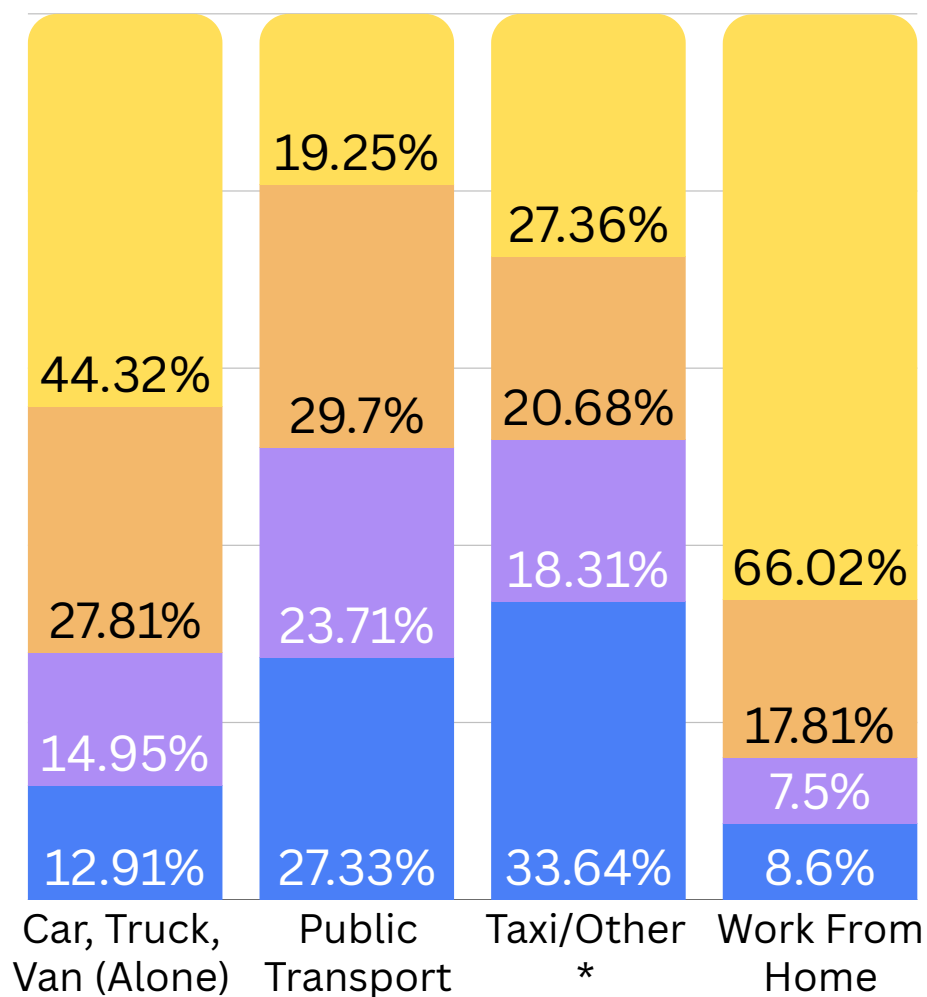


Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024, 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0801

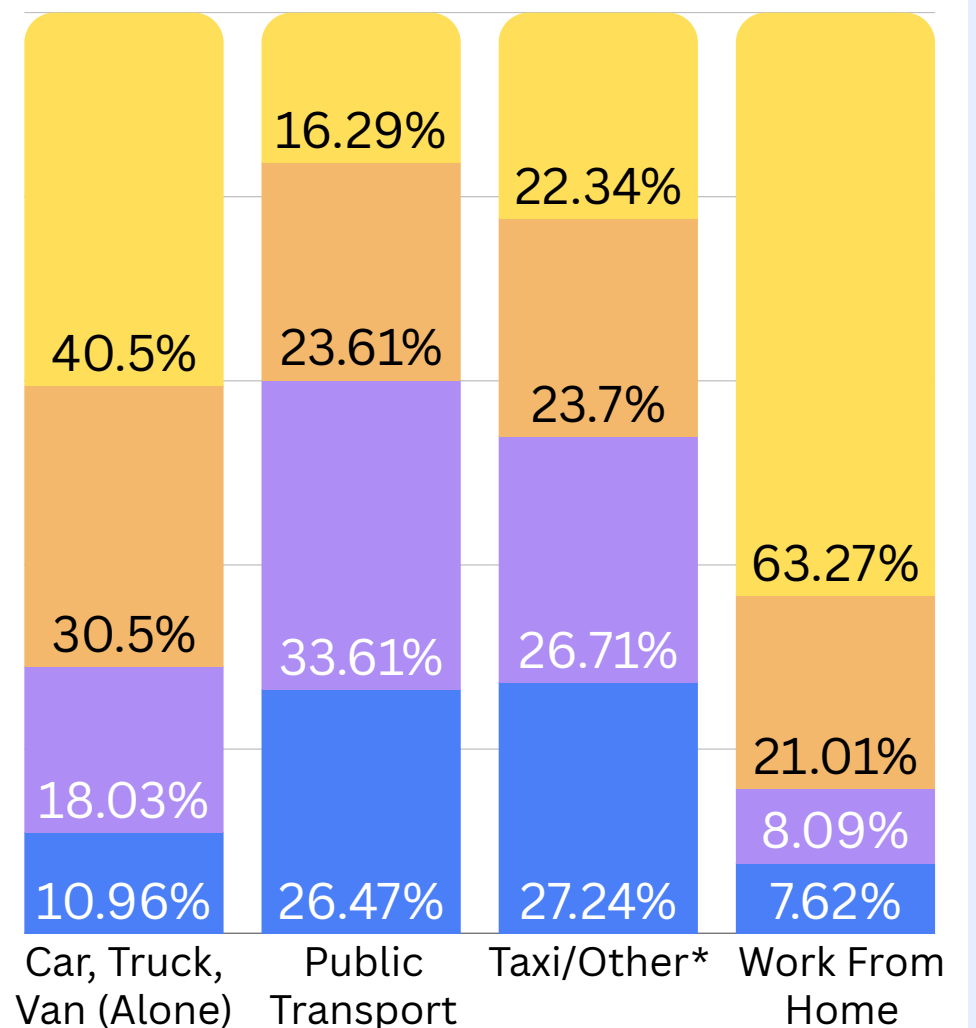
Discussion Item: Transportation

Means of Transportation to Work by Workers' Earnings in the Past 12 Months by County (2024)

PA Counties



NJ Counties*



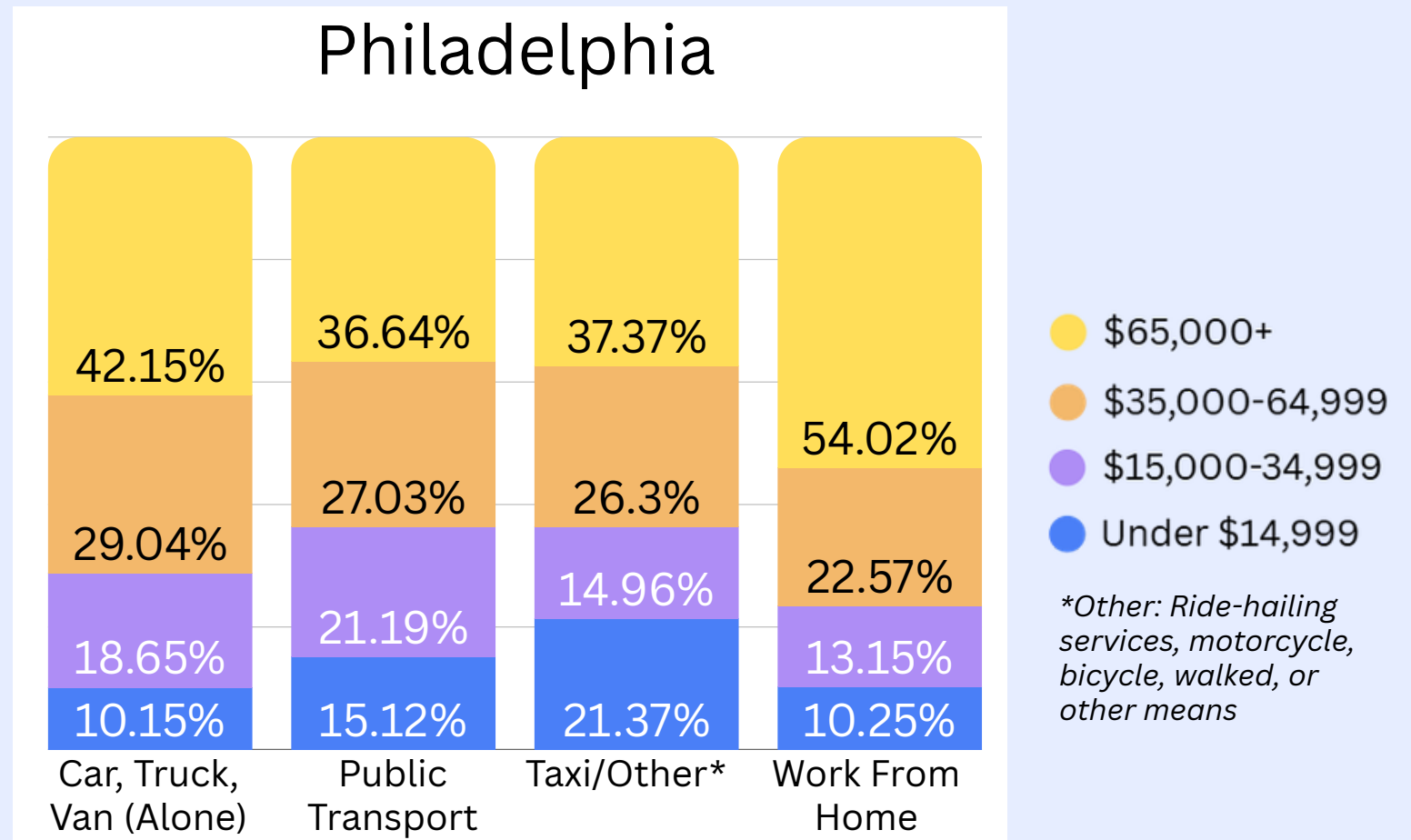
*Salem data is suppressed in calculations

In the PA and NJ counties, individuals earning less than \$14,999 predominantly use public transportation or taxis, ride-hailing, biking, or walking.

*Other: Ride-hailing services, motorcycle, bicycle, walked, or other means

Discussion Item: Transportation

Means of Transportation to Work by Workers' Earnings in the Past 12 Months by County (2024)



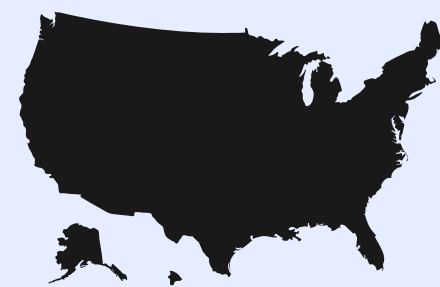
Across the EMA...

Over half (54-66%) of those working from home earns \$65,000 or more.

Driving alone **increases** with income with only **10-12% of the lowest earners** compared to **40-44% of the highest earners** driving alone.

This indicates that higher-income workers have more control over how they commute to work.

Discussion Item: Food Insecurity



[Click here for more details on this set of infographics](#)

SNAP Eligibility Changes in 2025*

1

Work Requirements:

Recipients must have 20 hours per week of work, volunteering, education, or training.

Citizenship:

Some legal residents who are not U.S. citizens are not eligible for SNAP

2

Work requirements apply if you are

- 18-64 years old
- Do not have a dependent child under 14
- Are physically and mentally able to work

3

Groups eligible are now:

- U.S. Citizens
- Green card holders
- Cuban or Haitian entrants
- Citizens of Micronesia, Palau, or the Marshall Islands

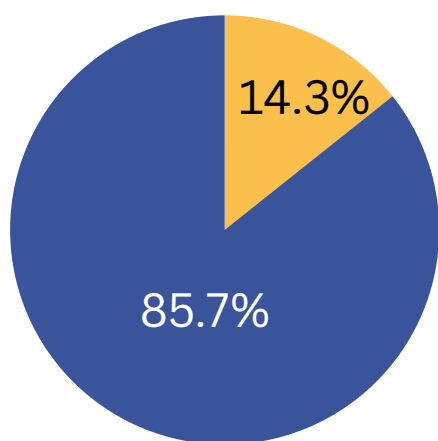
Food insecurity is the condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food.

**The data presented in this section reflects the most recent estimates. However, recent changes to SNAP eligibility and work requirements are expected to increase the number of people experiencing food insecurity who do not qualify for benefits.*

Overall in the United States (2023)...

Food Insecurity Rate

- Percent experiencing food insecurity
- Percent not experiencing food insecurity

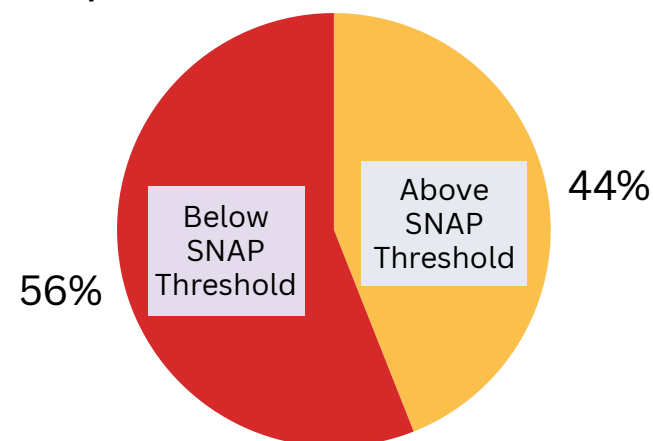


Annual Food Budget Shortfall

32,156,122,000



Estimated SNAP Eligibility Among Food Insecure Population Nationwide



**Overall population includes all individuals, including children, regardless of race or ethnicity*

Discussion Item: Food Insecurity



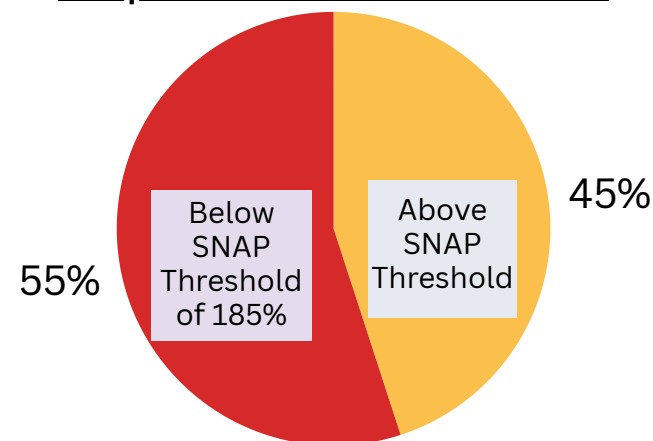
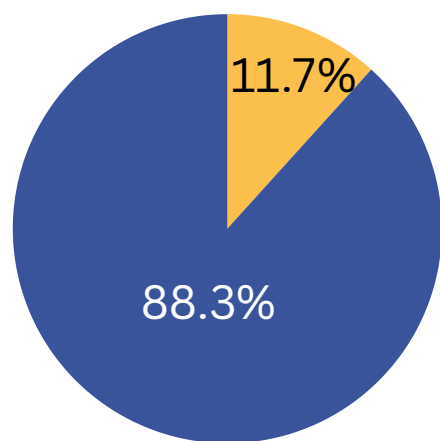
Overall in New Jersey (2023)...

Food Insecurity Rate

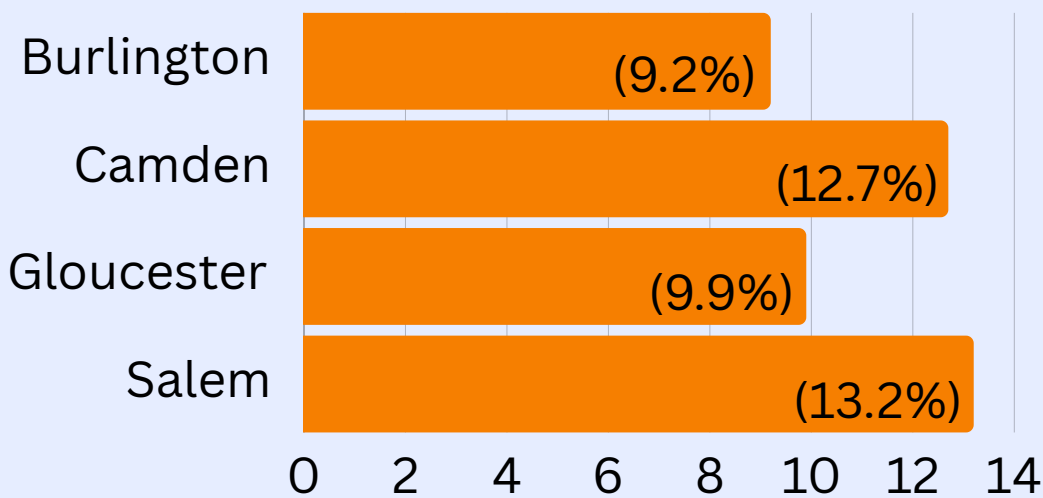
Annual Food Budget Shortfall

Estimated SNAP Eligibility Among Food Insecure Population Statewide

- Percent experiencing food insecurity
- Percent not experiencing food insecurity



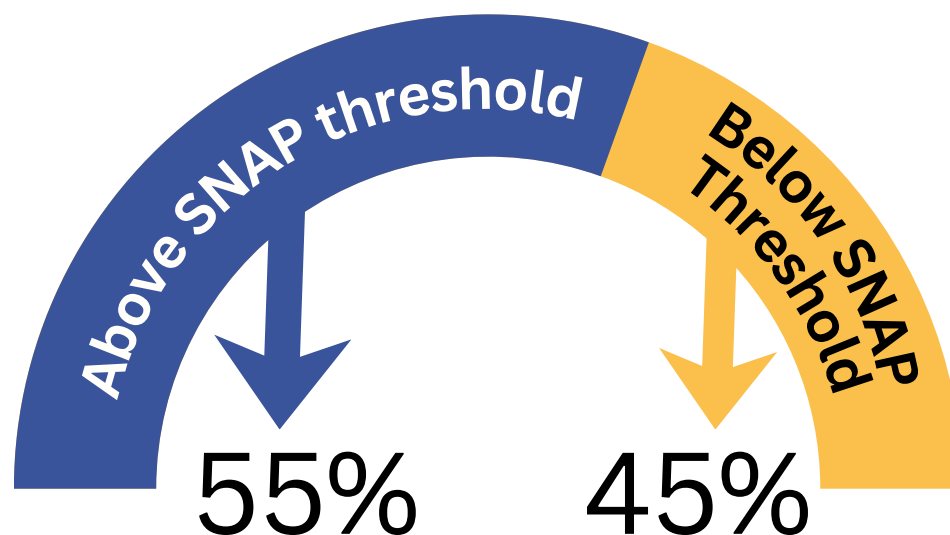
Food Insecurity Rate in NJ Counties



Camden (12.7%) and Salem (13.2%) counties are experiencing **higher rates of food insecurity** compared to the NJ state rate (11.7%).

Estimated Program Eligibility Burlington County, NJ*

55% of food-insecure Burlington residents don't qualify for SNAP benefits



The NJ SNAP eligibility requires a monthly income at or below **185% of the Federal Poverty Level**. For a one-person household, that is **\$2,413 per month**.

*Among Food Insecure People in Chester and Bucks County

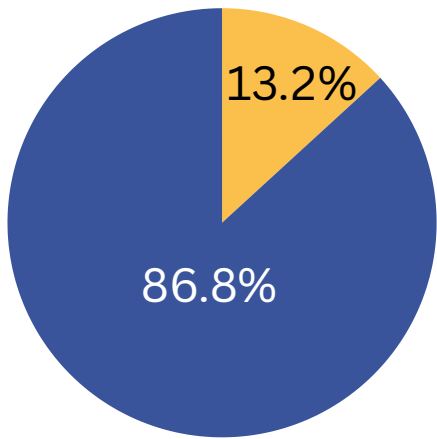
Discussion Item: Food Insecurity



Overall in Pennsylvania (2023)...

Food Insecurity Rate

- Percent experiencing food insecurity
- Percent not experiencing food insecurity

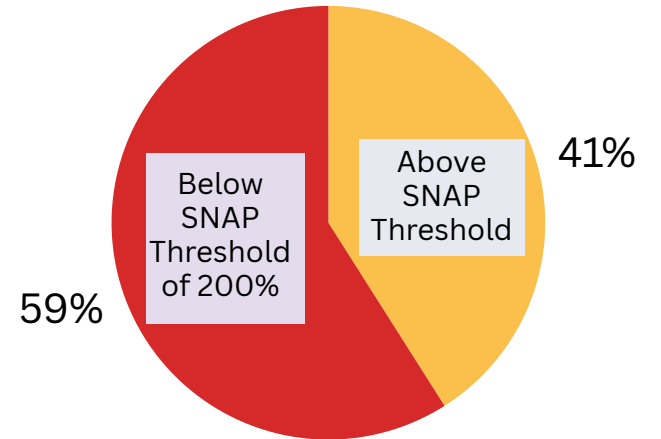


Annual Food Budget Shortfall

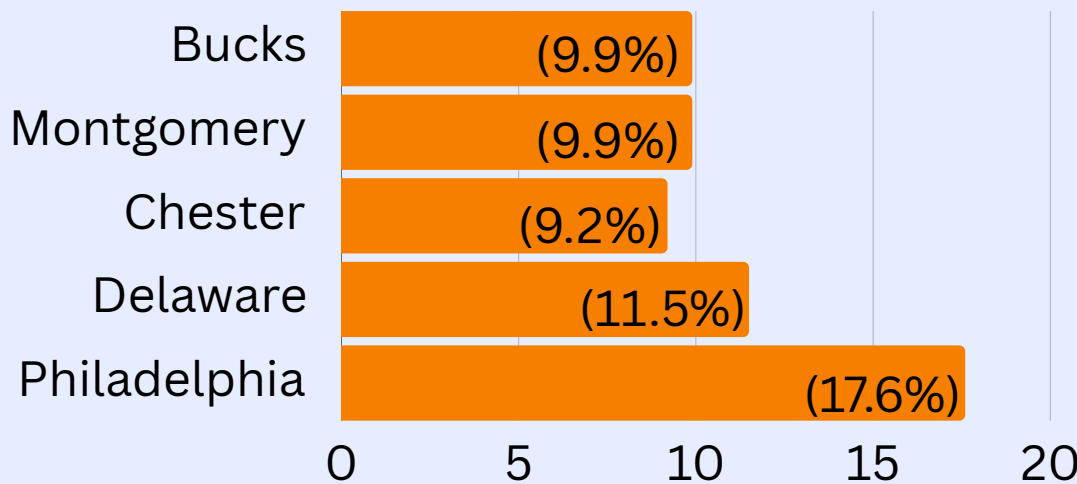
1,170,335,000



Estimated SNAP Eligibility Among Food Insecure Population Statewide



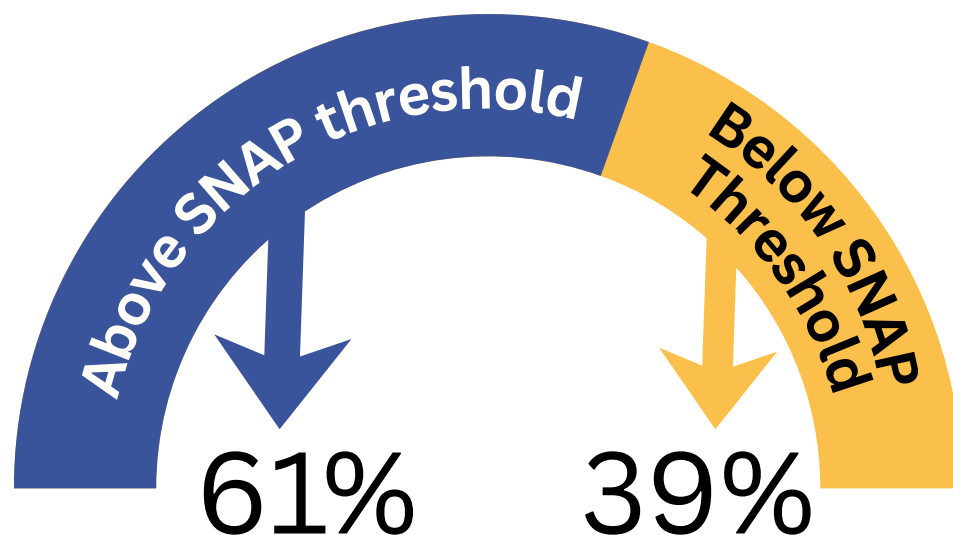
Food Insecurity Rate in PA Counties



Approximately **1 in 5** people in Philadelphia County are experiencing food insecurity.

Estimated Program Eligibility Chester & Bucks County, PA*

61% of food-insecure Bucks and Chester counties residents don't qualify for SNAP benefits.



The PA SNAP eligibility requires a monthly income at or below **200% of the Federal Poverty Level**. For a one-person household, that is **\$2,608 per month**.

*Among Food Insecure People in Chester and Bucks County

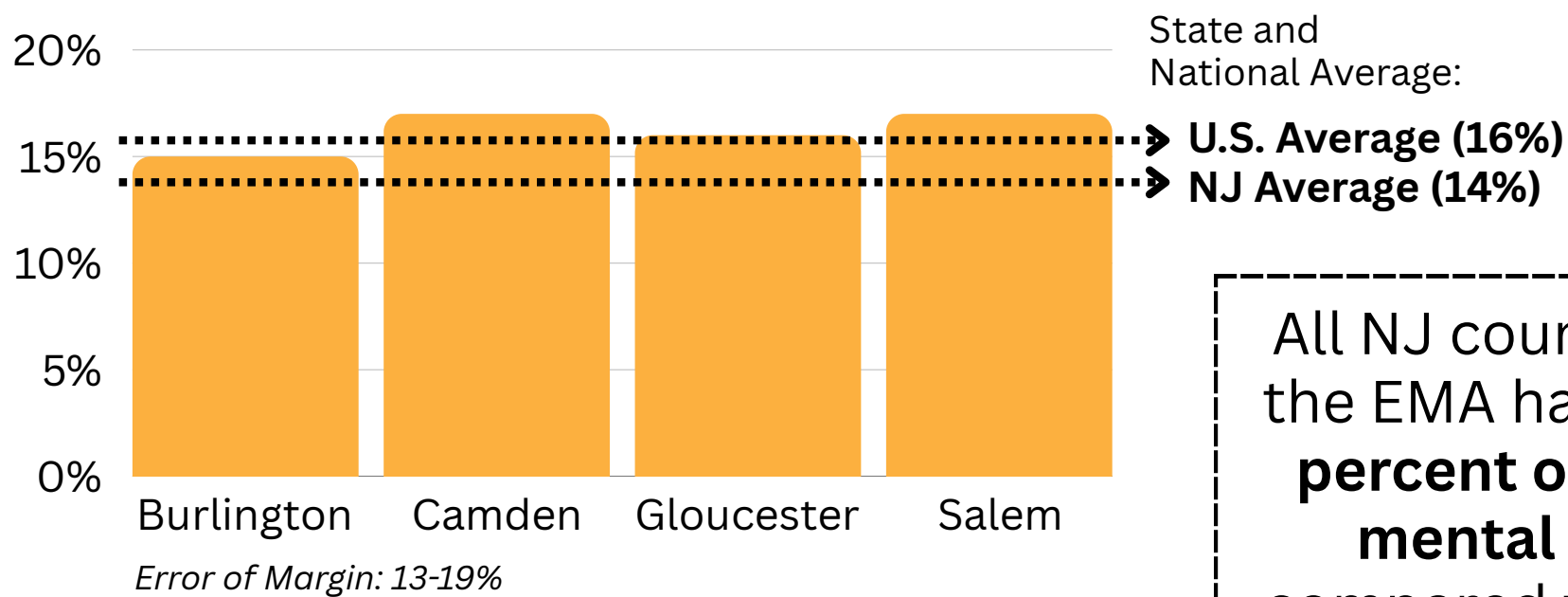
Discussion Item: Mental Health

***Frequent mental distress** is characterized by experiencing 14 or more days of mental distress per month

[Click here for more details on this set of infographics](#)

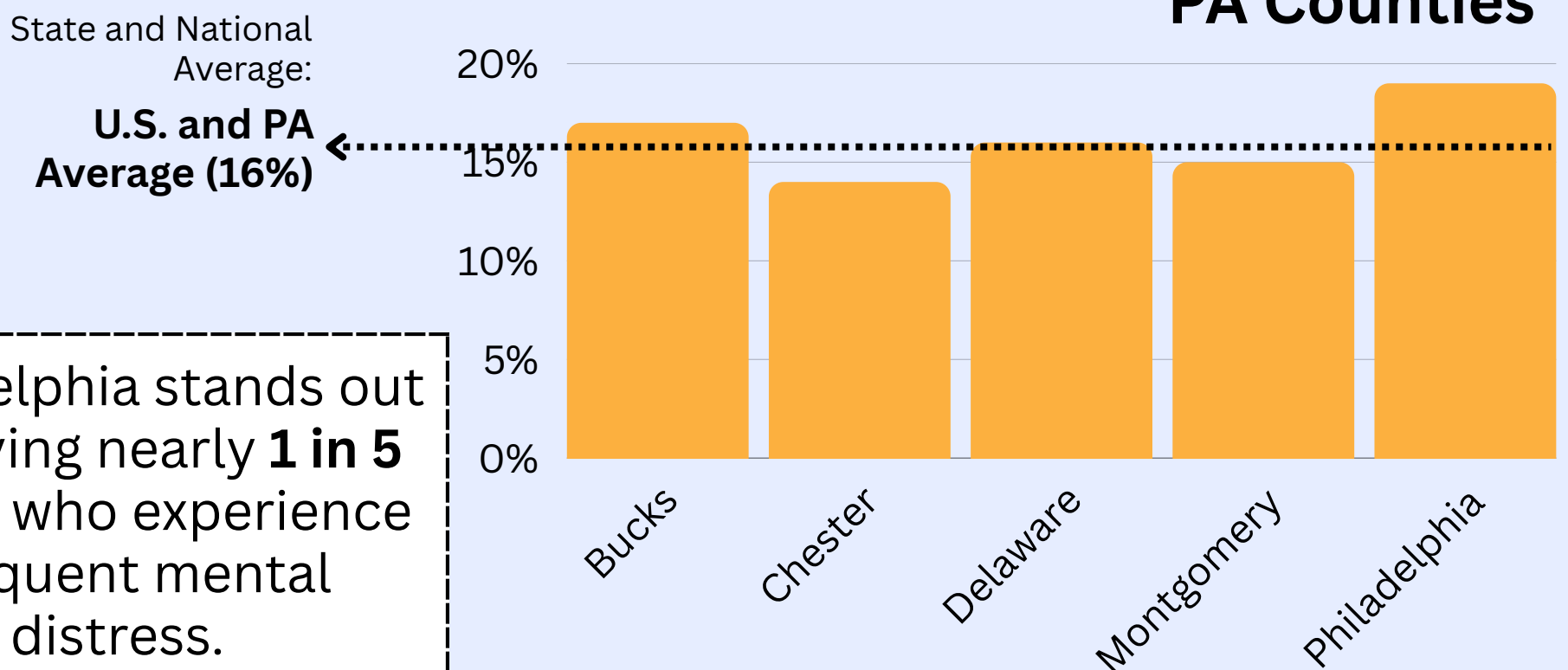
Percent of Adults, aged 18+, Who Have Experienced Frequent Mental Distress* in 2022

NJ Counties



All NJ counties within the EMA have a **higher percent of frequent mental distress** compared to the state average.

PA Counties



Philadelphia stands out as having nearly **1 in 5 adults** who experience frequent mental distress.

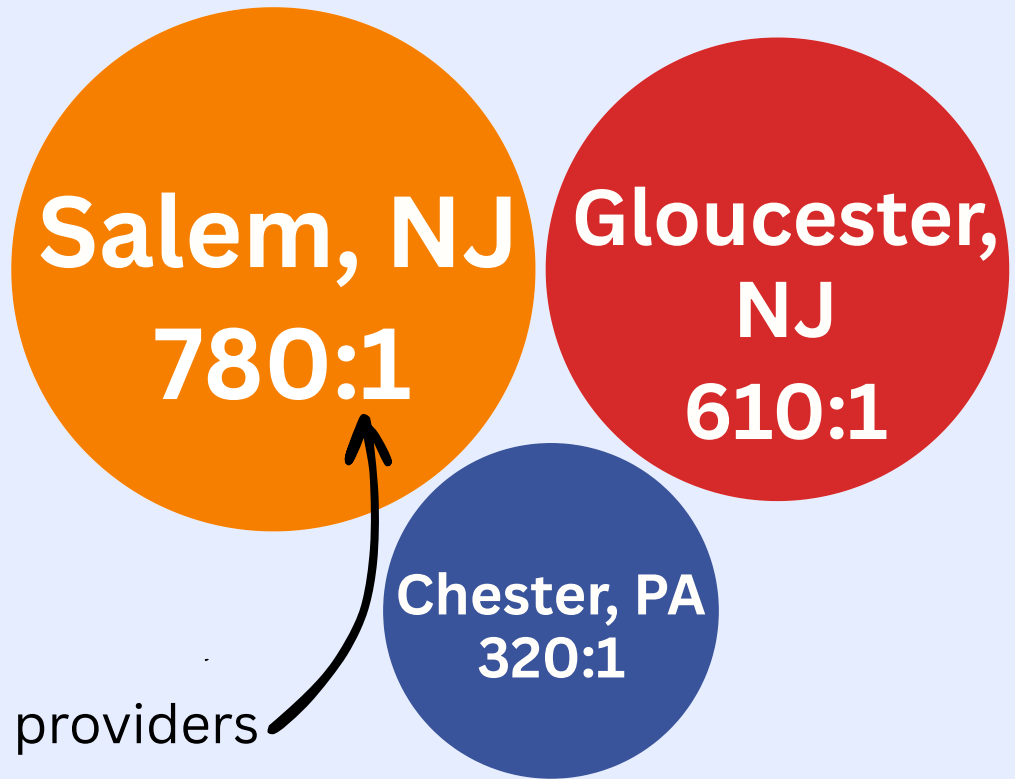
Error of Margin: 13-21%

Discussion Item: Mental Health



Top 3 Counties with Highest Client Burden Per Provider in the EMA, 2024

Higher ratios indicate **lower access to care** since there are fewer providers available. This may lead to longer wait times, limited provider choice, and unmet mental health needs.

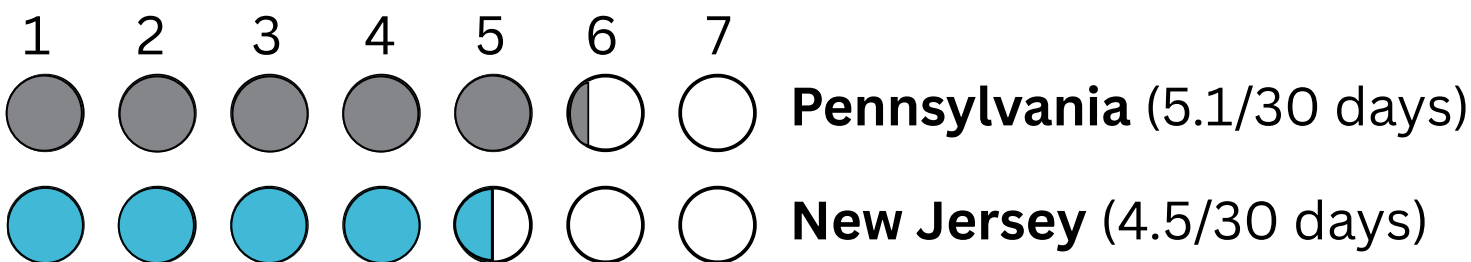


The ratio of population to mental health providers

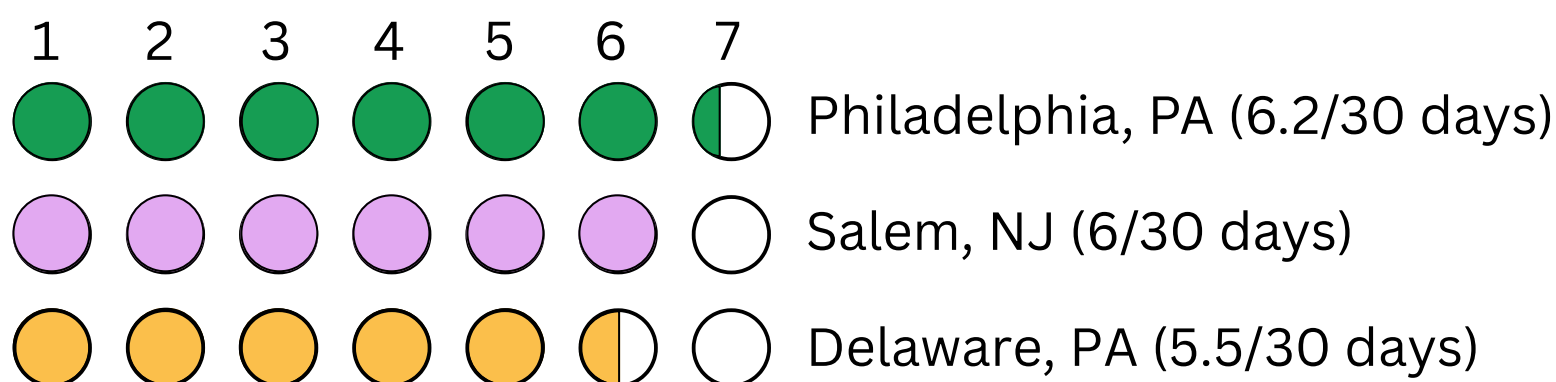
Data Source: County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, Compare Counties

Average Number of Poor Mental Health Days Reported in Past 30 days, 2022

State Averages



Top Counties



Residents in the EMA are reporting **more mentally unhealthy days** than **both state averages**.

Data Source: County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, Compare Counties

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Transportation

Transportation patterns vary across the EMA. While most residents rely on private vehicles to commute, public transportation is utilized much higher in Philadelphia (16.7%) than suburban counties. Lower-income individuals are more likely to rely on public transportation, walking, or ride services, while higher-income individuals are more likely to drive or work from home. These differences suggest that access to reliable transportation may differ between populations in the EMA.

Food Insecurity

Food insecurity remains a significant issue across the EMA, particularly in Philadelphia where approximately 1 in 5 residents experience food insecurity. Despite this, many people experiencing food insecurity do not qualify for SNAP benefits due to eligibility thresholds. Recent policy changes have expanded work requirements with fewer groups qualifying for exemptions. As a result, more individuals are losing eligibility, widening the gap between food insecurity and available support.

Housing

From 2020 to 2024, both rent and home values have increased across every county in the EMA, outpacing growth in household income. In 2024, on average, more than 2 in 5 renter households in the EMA spend 35% or more of their income on rent, with Philadelphia having 48.2% of units being renter-occupied. This widening gap is causing housing to be increasingly unaffordable to households. In Philadelphia, there was a 22.9% increase in people experiencing homelessness from 2022 to 2025.