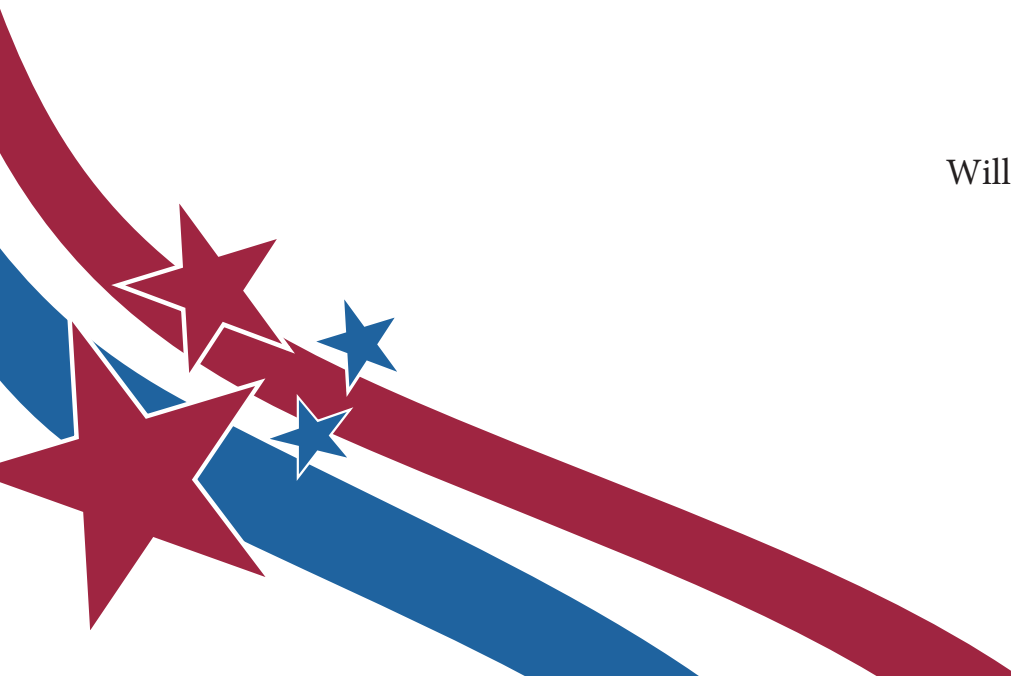


*Changes in Racial and  
Ethnic Diversity in  
New Jersey 2000 - 2020*

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## Introduction

Every ten years, the United States Census updates its population data for every county in the country. New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the country and has twenty-one counties, each distinct in history and ethnographical makeup. The United States Census has recently released its data from the 2020 Census, showing an increase in New Jersey residents from 8,791,894 in 2010 to 9,288,994 in 2020. From 2000 to 2010, the number of residents living within New Jersey's 21 counties increased by 377,544, whereas the growth from 2010 to 2020 was 497,100 residents. In order to understand how the population of New Jersey has changed in these periods, this report focuses on one characteristic of New Jersey's population: ethnography.

Ethnography is the description of a society or a territory's ethnic and racial demographics. This report analyzes the data from the 2020, 2010, and 2000 censuses to understand one important aspect of New Jersey's population. Using the data from these three censuses, this report will analyze the following populations of New Jersey's twenty-one counties to determine how the ethnic makeup of New Jersey's counties has changed: White, Black, Asian, and Hispanic. Because this study's goal is to examine overall changes in ethnic makeup in New Jersey's counties, the following U.S. Census racial categories that represent less than 1% of New Jersey's total population are not included in this study: Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Other Race. Similarly, in order to maintain the focus and clarity of this report, only the individuals who self-identify as one race alone will be examined.

**Table A:** Population by New Jersey County in 2020, 2010, 2000

<b>County Name</b>	<b>2020 Overall Population</b>	<b>2010 Overall Population</b>	<b>2000 Overall Population</b>
<b>Atlantic County</b>	274,534	274,549	252,552
<b>Bergen County</b>	955,732	905,116	884,118
<b>Burlington County</b>	461,860	448,734	423,394
<b>Camden County</b>	523,485	513,657	508,932
<b>Cape May County</b>	95,263	97,265	102,326
<b>Cumberland County</b>	154,152	156,898	146,438

<b>Essex County</b>	863,728	783,969	793,633
<b>Gloucester County</b>	302,294	288,288	254,673
<b>Hudson County</b>	724,854	634,266	608,975
<b>Hunterdon County</b>	128,947	128,349	121,989
<b>Mercer County</b>	387,340	366,513	350,761
<b>Middlesex County</b>	863,162	809,858	750,162
<b>Monmouth County</b>	643,615	630,380	615,301
<b>Morris County</b>	509,285	492,276	470,212
<b>Ocean County</b>	637,229	576,567	510,916
<b>Passaic County</b>	524,118	501,226	489,049
<b>Salem County</b>	64,837	66,083	64,285
<b>Somerset County</b>	345,361	323,444	297,490
<b>Sussex County</b>	144,221	149,265	144,166
<b>Union County</b>	575,345	536,499	522,541
<b>Warren County</b>	109,632	108,692	102,437
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,288,994</b>	<b>8,791,894</b>	<b>8,414,350</b>

### **Part I: Background**

Although race, ethnicity, and nationality are related in that they each classify aspects of someone's identity, each term is distinct from the others. Race is a social construct where groups are characterized based on physical or social characteristics. On the other hand, ethnicity is one's belonging to a specific group with shared cultural histories, traditions, or languages. Finally, nationality refers only to the specific country originated from. Two people may be of the same race but be a part of different ethnic groups.

These differences are crucial to understanding the data on the United States Census, especially regarding the Hispanic or Latino category. The Census classifies "Hispanic or Latino" as ethnicities rather than races or nationalities because they are used to denote those from a Spanish-speaking country, typically in Latin America. Those who identify as Hispanic or Latino do not originate from one specific country or inherently share physical or social characteristics. Someone who is Hispanic may also be White, Black, Asian, or another racial category. However, there is a significant Hispanic population in New Jersey and it is important to recognize that those in this group may have experiences that are distinct from White, Black, or Asian New

Jerseyans. Therefore, to honor these distinct experiences and accurately describe New Jersey counties' demographics, this report distinguishes Hispanic from White, Black, and Asian. The "White", "Black", and "Asian" categories in this report refer to those who self-identified as both non-Hispanic and White, Black, or Asian on the Census. The "Hispanic or Latino" category refers to those who self-identified as Hispanic or Latino on the Census, regardless of race.

Diversity describes how many different groups are present in a given area. For the purposes of this report, diversity is defined as how many different ethnic or racial groups reside in each of New Jersey's 21 counties. The Census data will show how diverse each county is, and how much each county's racial and ethnic makeup has changed since 2000. The ethnographic specific data cannot explain why these changes have occurred or what effect diversity has on each county. Nevertheless, the data from this report are important because it can inform policy decisions about civil rights by eliminating disparities in employment opportunities, health risks and health care, and environmental risks.

## **Part II: Methodology**

This report relies on the U.S. Census data from 2000, 2010, and 2020. For each New Jersey county, the value for each racial category was recorded as a percentage of the overall county population. For instance, 42.7% of Passaic County residents self-identified as Hispanic on the 2020 Census and 58.3% did not identify as Hispanic. Additionally, the percentage of Hispanic residents of Passaic County in 2010 was 37% and 30% in 2000.

Once the percentage of each racial category was recorded for all twenty-one counties in 2020, 2010, and 2000, the next step was to calculate how each racial group's population changed as a percentage of the whole. While this report calculates how each group's population share changed in each county from 2000 to 2010 and from 2010 to 2020, Tables B focuses only on

how the demographics changed from 2000 to 2020. In order to find the change in each New Jersey county from 2000 to 2020, the following formula was used:

$$\% \text{ of racial group } A \text{ in } 2020 - \% \text{ of racial group } A \text{ in } 2000$$

### **Changes in Racial and Ethnic Representation in County Populations 2000-2020**

Using this formula, the 2020 percentage of the Hispanic population in Passaic County, New Jersey (42.7%), for example, minus the 2000 percentage of the same group in Passaic County (30%) is 12.7%. Therefore, there was an increase of 12.7 percentage points from 2000 to 2020 in the Hispanic portion of the population of Passaic County, New Jersey. This formula is then applied across the data and is represented in Table B. A negative number in the data denotes a situation in which the percentage of the population of a specific group decreased from 2000 to 2020.

**Table B:** Difference in Percentage of Total Population in each New Jersey County from 2000 to 2020 by Racial or Ethnic Category

<b>Name</b>	<b>Hispanic Difference</b>	<b>White Difference</b>	<b>Black Difference</b>	<b>Asian Difference</b>
<b>Atlantic County</b>	7%	3%	1%	5%
<b>Bergen County</b>	11%	-4%	2%	10%
<b>Burlington County</b>	5%	-6%	3%	4%
<b>Camden County</b>	9%	-3%	5%	4%
<b>Cape May County</b>	4%	1%	-1%	0%
<b>Cumberland County</b>	15%	7%	7%	1%
<b>Essex County</b>	9%	-2%	9%	4%
<b>Gloucester County</b>	5%	-5%	2%	2%
<b>Hudson County</b>	1%	12%	4%	19%
<b>Hunterdon County</b>	6%	-3%	0%	3%
<b>Mercer County</b>	12%	-9%	5%	11%
<b>Middlesex County</b>	9%	-12%	3%	20%
<b>Monmouth County</b>	6%	1%	-1%	2%
<b>Morris County</b>	7%	-3%	1%	7%
<b>Ocean County</b>	5%	1%	0%	1%
<b>Passaic County</b>	13%	16%	5%	6%
<b>Salem County</b>	6%	-2%	1%	0%
<b>Somerset County</b>	8%	-13%	3%	15%

<b>Sussex County</b>	7%	-2%	1%	1%
<b>Union County</b>	14%	1%	10%	5%
<b>Warren County</b>	8%	-6%	4%	2%

[Diversity Rating Based on 2020 Census Data Interactive Dashboard:](https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/alyssa6012/viz/HughesCenterAnalysisofNJ CensusData/Dashboard1)

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### **County Diversity Ratings in 2020**

Diversity is a qualitative variable which this report transforms into a quantitative variable. Diversity is conceptualized as the amount that a county's population consists of different racial groups. To accurately compare the levels of diversity in each county in 2020, each county is assigned a numerical rating between one and twelve. Counties with a diversity rating closer to one are the least diverse and counties with a diversity rating closer to twelve are the most diverse.

This report assigns each county a rating based on how diverse it is regarding its Hispanic, White, Black, and Asian populations. For each racial or ethnic category, the county receives a number one through three, with one being the least diverse for a given category and three being the most. Table C shows the percentage threshold of each racial and ethnic category that grants counties a one, two, or three. Because the White population is the most common race in the United States (57.8%) and in New Jersey (61.6%) in 2020 according to the Census, it is weighted differently in diversity rating than Hispanic, Black, and Asian. Table C explains that counties with a White population greater than 75% receive a diversity rating of one for such population category, counties with a White population between 50%-75% receive a two, and counties with a White population less than 50% receive a three. However, the Hispanic diversity rating is exactly opposite of the White diversity rating.

Black and Asian counties are weighted the same as each other. Counties with Black or Asian populations that are less than 10% received a one for those categories, counties with Black or Asian populations that are between 10% to 20% received a two, and counties with Black or Asian populations greater than 20% received a three.

**Table C: Diversity Index Percentage Threshold**

Hispanic	White	Black	Asian
<50% 1	<50% 3	<10% 1	<10% 1
50%-75% 2	50%-75% 2	10%-20% 2	10%-20% 2
>75% 3	>75% 1	>20% 3	>20% 3

**Table D: Percentage of Hispanic Population and White Population in New Jersey Counties & Diversity Index Scores by Racial or Ethnic Category**

Name	Hispanic or Latino	Hispanic rating	Non-Hispanic White Population Alone	White rating
Atlantic County	19.6%	2	67.4%	2
Bergen County	21.4%	2	68.2%	2
Burlington County	8.7%	1	69.9%	2
Camden County	18.2%	2	65.2%	2
Cape May County	7.8%	1	91.2%	1
Cumberland County	34.4%	3	65.1%	2
Essex County	24.4%	3	36.0%	3
Gloucester County	7.3%	1	80.4%	1
Hudson County	40.4%	3	47.8%	3
Hunterdon County	8.5%	1	88.7%	1
Mercer County	21.7%	2	55.6%	2
Middlesex County	22.4%	2	49.8%	3
Monmouth County	12.5%	1	81.9%	1
Morris County	15.1%	2	78.9%	1
Ocean County	10.4%	1	91.2%	1
Passaic County	42.7%	3	67.8%	2
Salem County	10.1%	1	77.7%	1
Somerset County	16.6%	2	61.6%	2
Sussex County	9.9%	1	91.0%	1
Union County	34.0%	3	55.6%	2
Warren County	11.2%	1	86.5%	1

**Table E:** Percentage of Black Population and Asian Population in New Jersey Counties & Diversity Index Scores by Racial or Ethnic Category

Name	Non-Hispanic Black or African American Alone	Black rating	Non-Hispanic Asian Alone	Asian rating
Atlantic County	17.7%	2	9.8%	1
Bergen County	6.6%	1	21.0%	3
Burlington County	17.7%	2	6.2%	1
Camden County	22.2%	2	7.5%	1
Cape May County	3.8%	1	1.0%	1
Cumberland County	26.1%	3	2.0%	1
Essex County	49.6%	3	7.2%	1
Gloucester County	11.2%	2	3.4%	1
Hudson County	16.5%	2	28.6%	3
Hunterdon County	2.6%	1	4.8%	1
Mercer County	23.9%	2	15.9%	2
Middlesex County	11.8%	2	34.1%	3
Monmouth County	7.0%	1	6.4%	1
Morris County	3.6%	1	13.3%	2
Ocean County	3.1%	1	2.0%	1
Passaic County	17.3%	2	10.1%	2
Salem County	15.5%	2	1.1%	1
Somerset County	10.6%	2	23.3%	3
Sussex County	2.2%	1	2.2%	1
Union County	29.6%	3	8.4%	1
Warren County	5.7%	1	3.0%	1

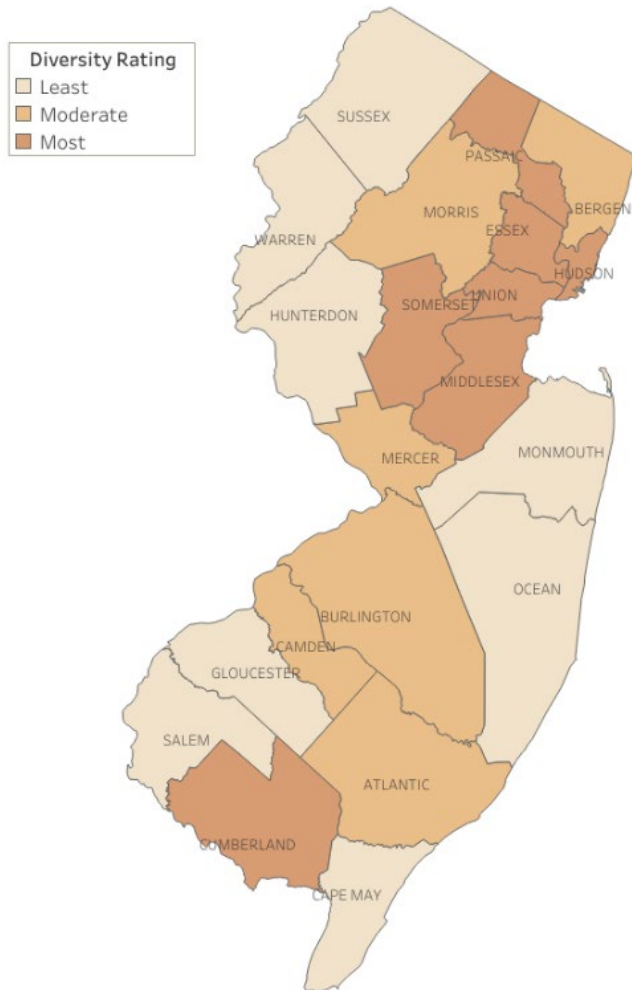
Once each New Jersey county receives a numerical score between one and three for each racial and ethnic category, the overall diversity scores are created by adding up each racial category's diversity rating. For example, if a county receives a one for its Hispanic, White, Black, and Asian categories, its overall diversity score would equal four. Counties with a diversity score between one and five are considered the least diverse. Counties with diversity scores between six and eight are considered moderately diverse, and counties with diversity scores between nine and twelve are considered the most diverse.



**Table F:** Overall Diversity Index Scores & Diversity Categorization of New Jersey Counties

Name	Diversity Score	Diversity Rating
Atlantic County	7	Moderate
Bergen County	8	Moderate
Burlington County	6	Moderate
Camden County	7	Moderate
Cape May County	4	Least
Cumberland County	9	Most
Essex County	10	Most
Gloucester County	5	Least
Hudson County	11	Most
Hunterdon County	4	Least
Mercer County	8	Moderate
Middlesex County	10	Most
Monmouth County	4	Least
Morris County	6	Moderate
Ocean County	4	Least
Passaic County	9	Most
Salem County	5	Least
Somerset County	9	Most
Sussex County	4	Least
Union County	9	Most
Warren County	4	Least

## Diversity Rating Based on 2020 Census Data ([Interactive Dashboard](#))



### Part IV: Findings

#### Diversity Scores

The counties that are considered the most diverse are Union, Somerset, Passaic, Middlesex, Hudson, and Essex. These counties received a diversity score between nine and twelve. Hudson County, according to the U.S. Census data from 2020, is the most diverse county in New Jersey, receiving a diversity score of eleven out of twelve. The White population was less

than 50% (47.8%) and the Hispanic population is almost 50% (40.4%). The Asian population is roughly 28.6% and the Black population is 16.5%. Counties with a White population of less than 50% receive higher diversity scores. For instance, Middlesex and Essex have White populations of 48.9% and 36% respectively, which are both less than 50% and explain their ten out of twelve diversity scores. Hudson, as the most diverse county in New Jersey, received a diversity score of three for Asian, three for 2 Black, and three for Hispanic. To compare, Cape May County, one of the least diverse counties in New Jersey, received only a one for the Hispanic, White, Black, and Asian categories.

The least diverse counties in New Jersey are Cape May County, Hunterdon County, Monmouth County, Ocean County, and Warren County. Each of these counties received a diversity score of four. It is important to note that a low diversity score is not necessarily a positive or negative characterization; it is merely a descriptive statistic of who resides where in New Jersey. Cape May has a White population of 91.2% and its Black, Asian, and Hispanic populations each account for less than 10% of the population. The White population in Hunterdon County accounts for 88.7% of its total population, which is slightly less than Cape May County, but still significant.

Although each New Jersey county has varying levels of diversity, the United States Census scored New Jersey with a 65.8% Diversity Index (DI) score, which ranks the state seventh in the country in terms of its diversity. Because New Jersey is a highly populated state, it is important to analyze which counties most impact this high diversity index score.

### **Demographic Changes**

It is also important to acknowledge that New Jersey's population has grown significantly since 2000, and it is crucial to analyze where these population changes are occurring the most.

New Jersey's population changed from 8,414,350 in 2000 to 9,288,994 in 2020, which is an 874,644 difference. This increase in population impacted each county's racial demographic makeup. For instance, Passaic County's Hispanic and White population shares increased from 2000 to 2020 by 13 percentage points and 16 percentage points respectively. This county's Black and Asian population shares increased in this same period by 5 percentage points and 6 percentage points respectively. Cape May County, however, saw a much less significant change in its demographic proportions. Since 2000, the most significant change in demographics in Cape May County was in its percentage of the Hispanic population, which grew by only 4 percentage points, and its White population grew by just 1 percentage point, in terms of their share of the overall population. There was no change in Cape May County's Asian population share and its Black population share decreased by 1 percentage point. Ultimately, the increase in New Jersey's population was not equally observed in each New Jersey County or in each ethnographical group. Some counties, like Passaic County, experienced significant changes, whereas other counties, such as Cape May County, had very little change in the past twenty years.

### **Part V: Limitations**

While conducting this report, there were some key limitations given the nature of the report. For instance, this report collected its data predominantly from the United States Census, which can be difficult to navigate. The U.S. Census data is collected every ten years and because technology advances so rapidly, the Census database can change quite dramatically in that timeframe. For example, the internet has developed significantly since 2000, which this report focuses a significant portion of its analysis on. Therefore, it is difficult to compare the data from 2000 with the data from 2020 when they existed in different technological eras.

This report was limited because of a surplus of information, rather than an inadequate amount. For the sake of clarity, this report only focuses on four racial and ethnic categories represented in New Jersey: Asian, Black, Hispanic, and White. However, there are a variety of New Jersey residents who identify as more than one race. Additionally, there were some racial categories that were not included in this report because they represent less than one percent of each New Jersey county. These racial categories included American Indian and Alaska Native Alone in addition to Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone. These racial categories are as important as the four categories that this report focuses on. However, because they represent such a small percentage of New Jersey's population, and because this report aims to focus on overall ethnic changes in New Jersey counties, including these categories would muddle the main analysis.

## **Part VI: Conclusion**

With the recent release of the 2020 United States Census data, it is important to analyze new trends that may have occurred since the last Census in 2010. In order to effectively care for constituents, state representatives and policymakers need to know the characteristics of the communities that they serve. This report focuses on one characteristic: New Jersey county ethnic and racial makeup. The purpose of this report is to address the overall changes of New Jersey's ethnic makeup since 2000.

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