
Report on the Status of Women in Atlantic County 2015



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Acknowledgments

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Introduction

In 2014, the Atlantic County Advisory Commission on Women (ACACW) requested the assistance of Stockton University faculty and students in developing a report on the status of women and girls in Atlantic County. This report, which follows the excellent guidelines provided by the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) in Washington, DC, is the outcome.

In 2014, the Atlantic County Advisory Commission on Women (ACACW) requested the assistance of Stockton University faculty and students in developing a report on the status of women and girls in Atlantic County. This report, which follows the excellent guidelines provided by the Institute for Women's Policy Research in Washington, DC, is the outcome.

As requested by the Commission and in accordance with the IWPR guidelines, this pilot report presents current data on women and girls in Atlantic County and relevant comparison data for the state of New Jersey and the United States in six sections: 1. Basic Demographics, 2. Political Participation, 3. Employment and Earnings, 4. Social and Economic Autonomy, 5. Reproductive Health and Rights, and 6. General Health and Well-Being. Under the supervision of three faculty members, 34 students in three undergraduate courses contributed research for this report over the course of the 2014-2015 academic year, with support from Stockton's Office of Service-Learning. Three senior Economics majors, one senior Sociology major, and supervising faculty compiled, formatted, and edited the data, narrative, and references in Spring 2015 to create the pilot report. It was presented to the Commissioners at their May 2015 meeting and to the County Executive and Freeholders at subsequent meetings.

Whenever possible, the most recent data are presented at the county level along with comparable state and national data. Researchers faced obstacles when data for the county, state and/or United States were collected in different years or compiled using different methods, so that comparable rates or percentages were difficult or impossible to calculate across county, state, and national populations. Researchers used a range of strategies to provide the most useful data and relevant comparisons for each data point given the available resources.

As outlined in Section 3 of this report, Atlantic County is in the midst of significant social and economic shifts, due in large part to changes in the local economy. It was important to the Commission and Stockton researchers to establish baseline data and to standardize methods of data collection and analysis in order to facilitate understanding of the effects of socioeconomic change on the lives and well-being of Atlantic County residents, including women and girls, going forward.

Women and girls make up over half of Atlantic County's population and are a diverse group, as demonstrated by the demographic data presented here. It is the goal of the Commission and the researchers who contributed to this report to provide accurate information on living conditions, available resources, strengths, and challenges facing women and girls in order to inform policy making efforts in Atlantic County and the region.

Section 1:

Basic Demographics

The basic demographic information about women in Atlantic County provides an essential foundation to understand all other sections of the report. When possible, demographic information about men has been added for comparison as well as the demographics of neighboring counties, the state, and national averages.

The first demographic discussed is the percentage of Atlantic County's population that are women, followed by the county's racial and ethnic demographics. Based on statistical information discussed in this section it is clear that the diversity of Atlantic County is comparable to that of New Jersey and the United States. As women of all races and ethnicities comprise the majority at the county, state, and national levels, women's status, especially in comparison to men, provides an important measure of Atlantic County's overall cultural, political, and physical health.

The men and women of Atlantic County with disabilities are discussed in the third section. According to the United States Census Bureau (2010), there are 19,846 disabled women and 17,747 disabled men in Atlantic County. When looking at national data, there are 20,225,000 disabled women and 18,912,986 disabled men in the U.S. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010). We see a gendered disparity at the county level when we consider different types of disabilities.

The last demographic noted in this section is marital status and an understanding of what marital status entails is essential. The U.S. Census Bureau (2013) uses five categories: separated, widowed, divorced, never married, and now married. While the United States has seen a declining rate of marriage over the past few decades, the statistics provided in this section indicate that the largest group in Atlantic County is now married.

Women comprise the majority in the United States, New Jersey, and Atlantic County.

As of 2013, 274,549 people were living in Atlantic County: women making up 51.4% and men making up 48.6 %.

In Atlantic County, there are 22,809 Hispanic and Latina women or 8.3% of the total population.

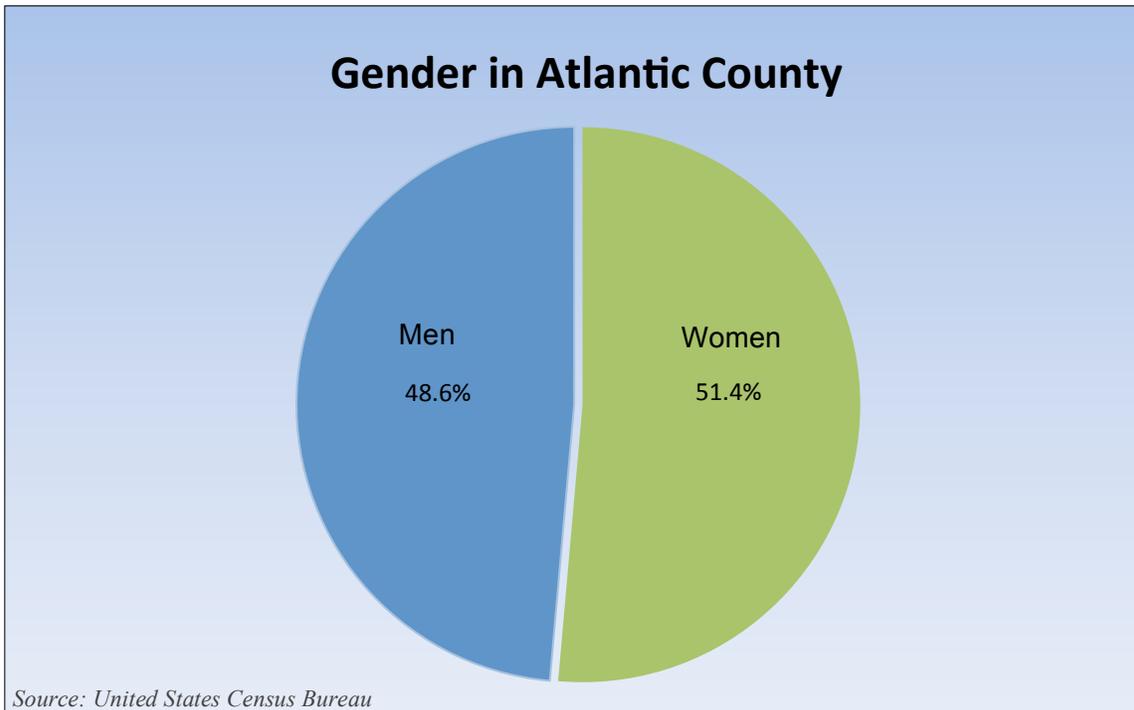
Marriage is the most popular relationship status. Almost half of the Atlantic County men and approximately 44% of Atlantic County women are currently married (and not separated).

Same-sex marriage has been legal in New Jersey since October 2013. This decision overruled the December 2006 Act, which recognized only civil unions.

I. Gender Demographics

- According to the 2010 census, there are 141,118 women in Atlantic County (51.4% of the population). In New Jersey, 51.2% are women, and of 308,745,538 people in the U.S., 50.8% are women.
- Currently, there is no reliable information on the number of gender non-conforming individuals (individuals who identify as neither male nor female) to include in this report. As a result, the report relies on the data available based on the traditional gender binary (male or female).
- Women comprise the majority of the population in Atlantic County, New Jersey, and the United States.
- Accordingly, women's status, especially in comparison to men, provides an important measure of Atlantic County's overall cultural, political, and physical health.

Figure 1



II. Racial Demographics

- As of 2013, 274,549 people were living in Atlantic County: women making up 51.4% and men making up 48.6 %.
- Of the women living in Atlantic County, 66.5% are white, 16.8% are Black or African American, 0.3% are American Indian, 7.9% are Asian, 17.5% are Hispanic or Latino, and 5.6% are some other race.
- The proportion of Hispanic women identifying as “White” increased in Atlantic County from 2005 to 2013.
- The proportion of white women (not Hispanic or Latina) in the entire female population decreased in Atlantic County from 2005 to 2013.

Figure 2

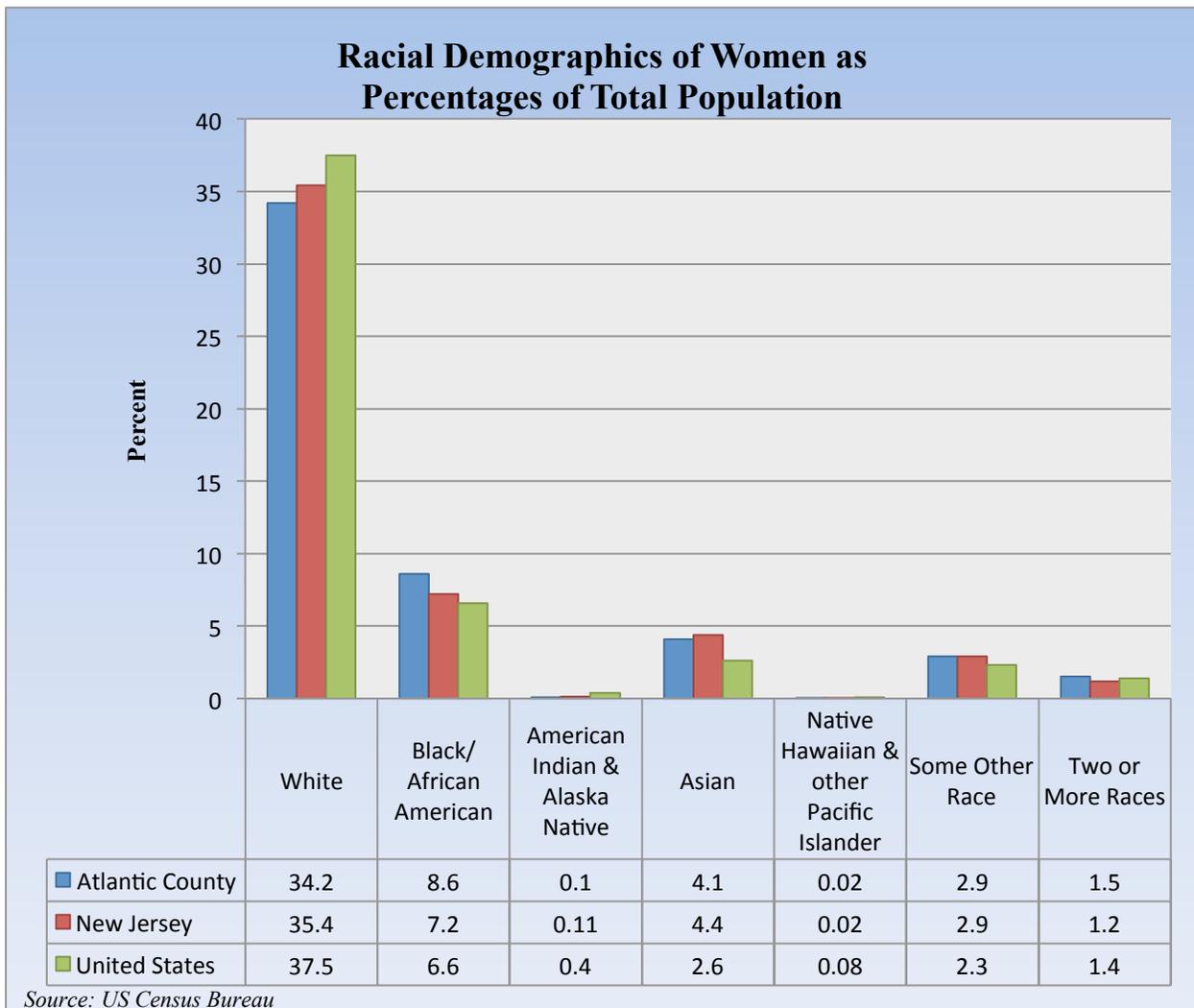


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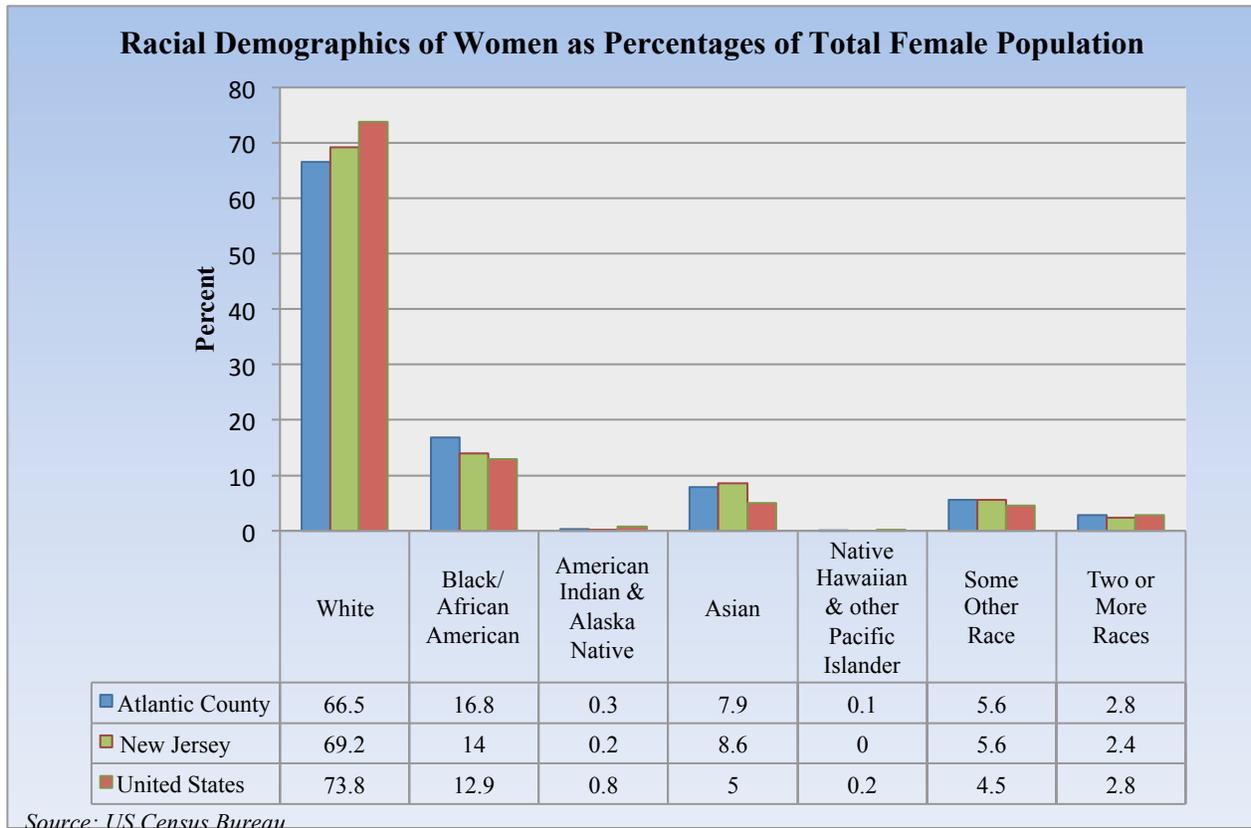


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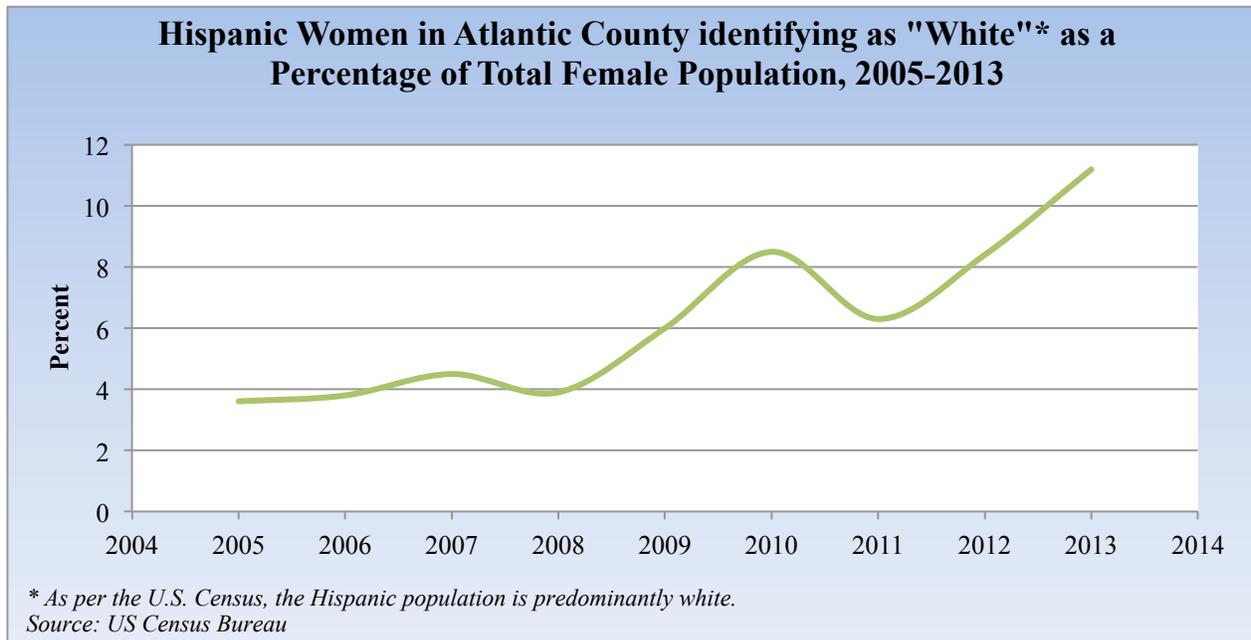


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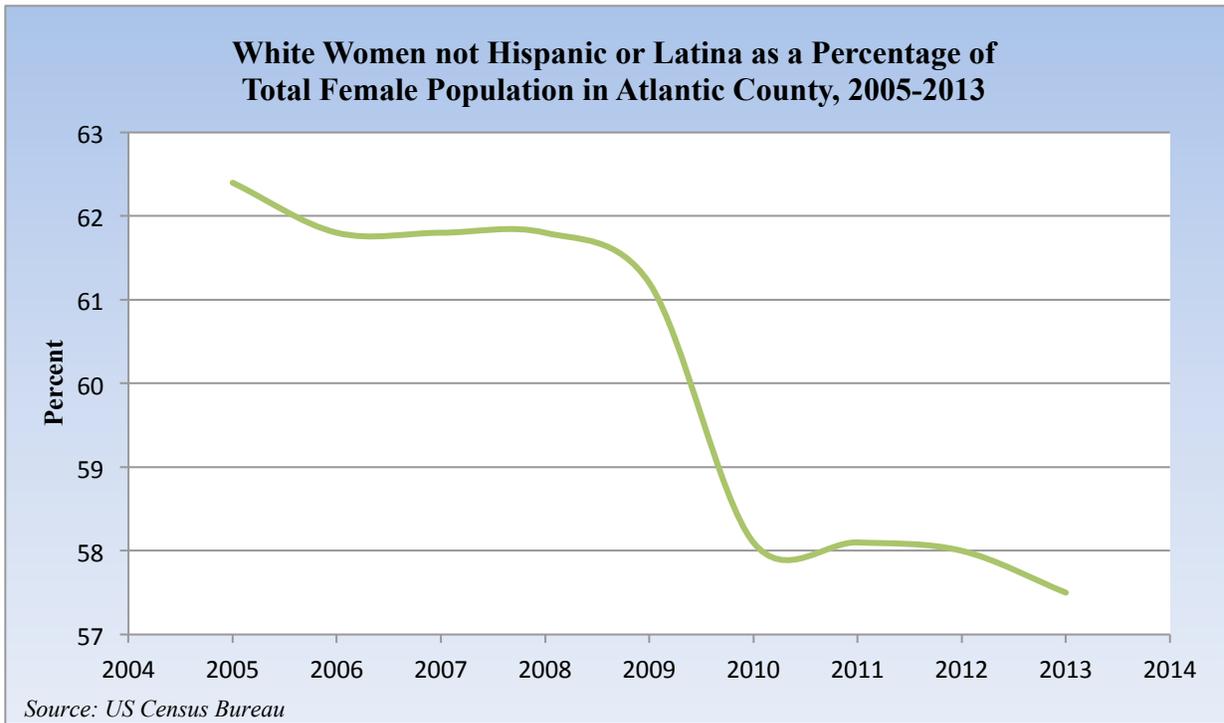
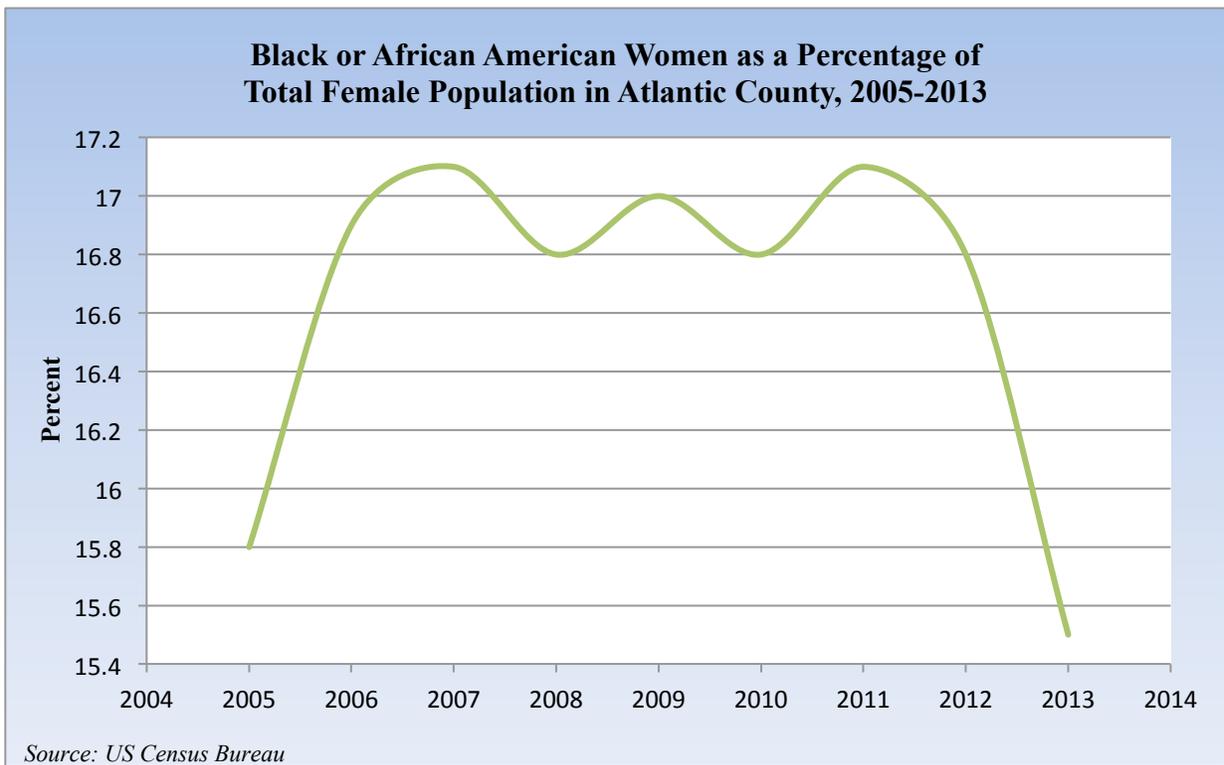


Figure 6



III. Hispanic & Latina/o Demographics

- In Atlantic County, there are 22,809 Hispanic and Latina women, representing 8.3% of the total population.
- This is very similar to the population of Hispanic or Latino men in Atlantic County, 23,432 or 8.5%.
- The Hispanic and Latino population of women and men in New Jersey is slightly higher than the county, with the state population being 8.77% for Latina women and 8.9% for Latino men.
- The national average is comparable with 17.1% of the total population (female and male) being Hispanic or Latino.
- The data show that Atlantic County does not differ greatly from the State or the U.S. in terms of the proportion of the population that is Latina/o or Hispanic.

Figure 7

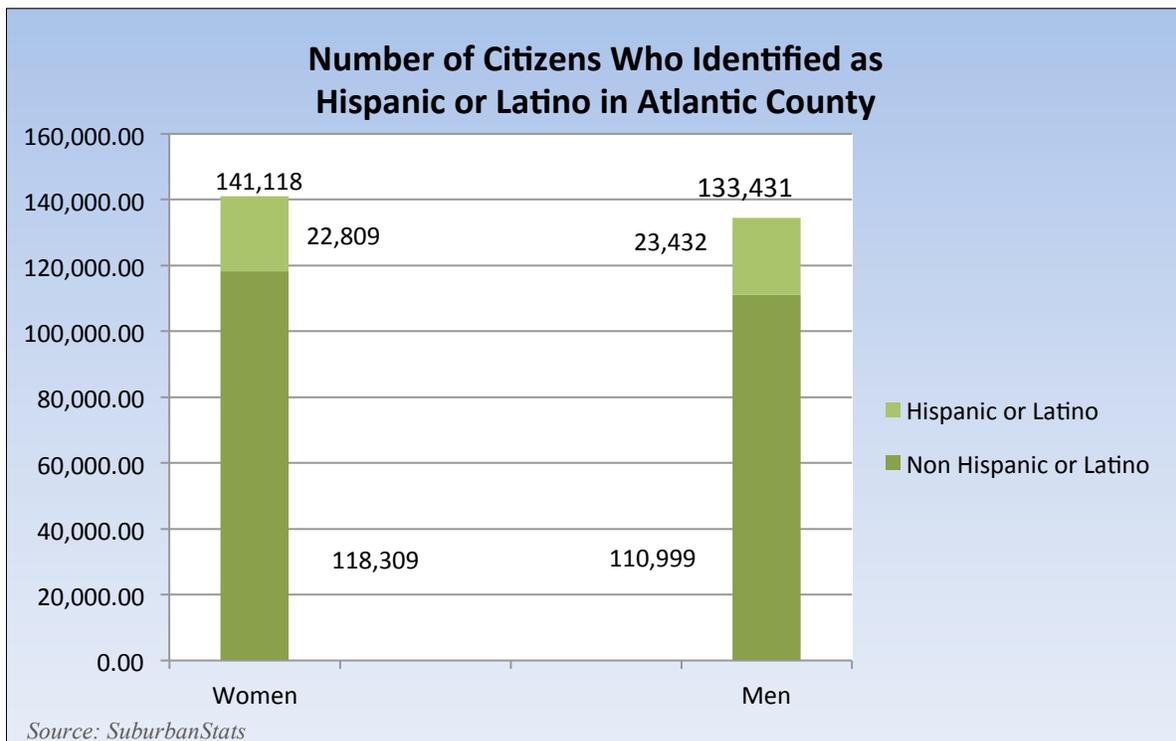


Figure 8

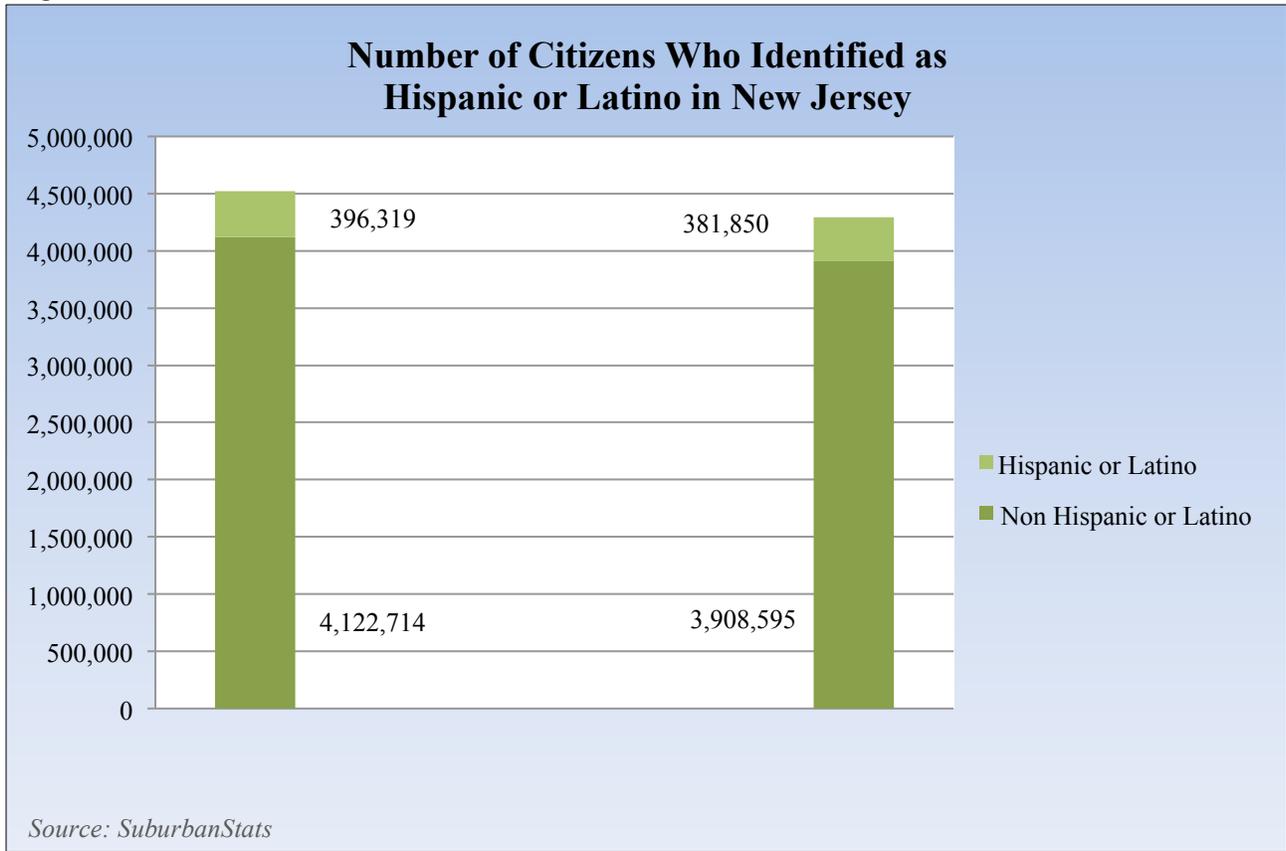
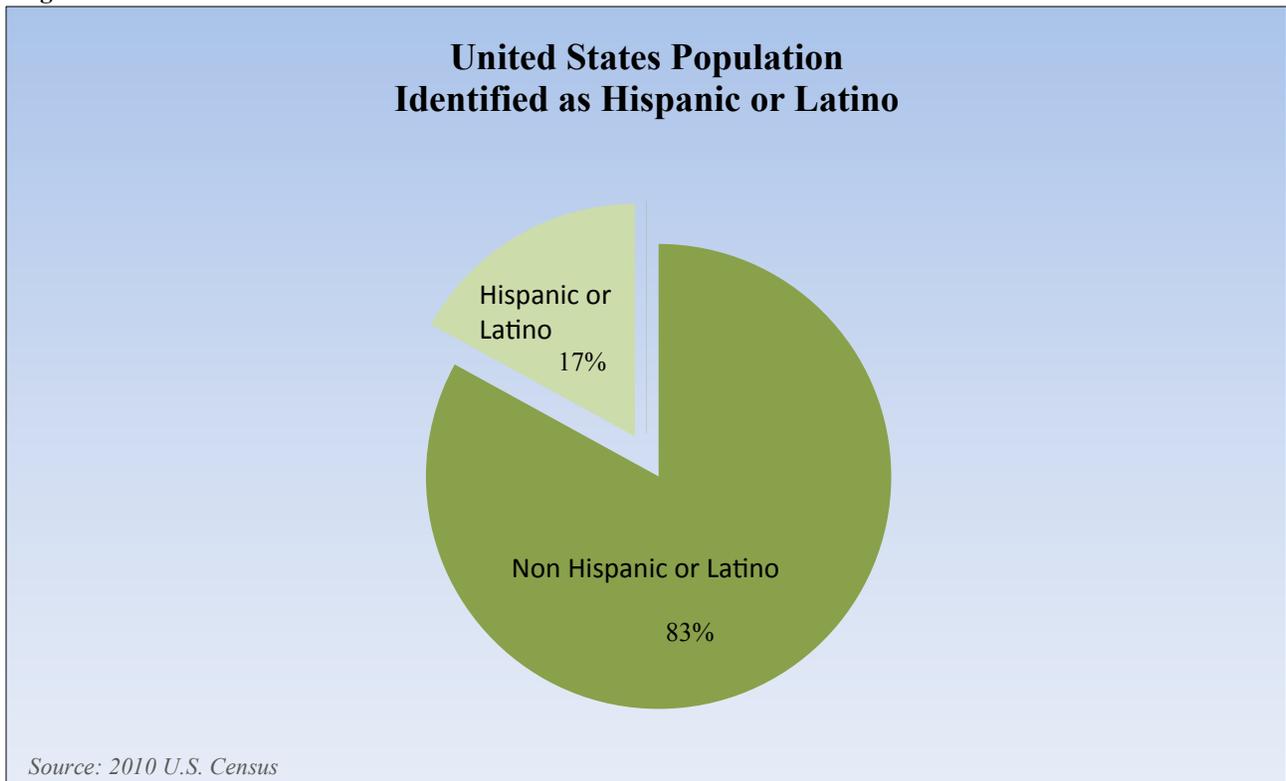


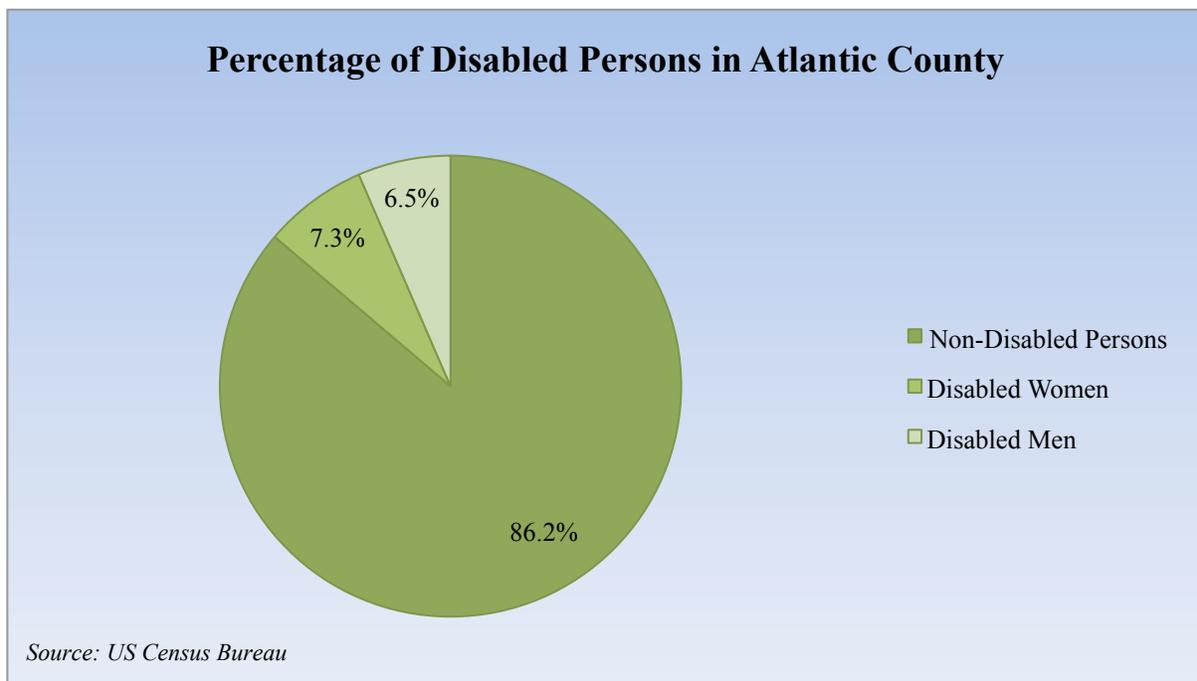
Figure 9



IV. Disability Demographics

- In national, New Jersey, and Atlantic County estimates, women are more affected by disability than men.
- A total of 20,225,000 women are disabled in the United States. Of that number 501,848 reside in New Jersey and 19,846 in Atlantic County.
- Women with disabilities in each demographic outnumber men with disabilities. 18,912,986 disabled men in the United States. Of that number 433,985 reside in New Jersey and 17,747 in Atlantic County.
- Notably, only 6,850 disabled people in Atlantic County are employed, while 17,932 (or 47.7 % of total disabled people in Atlantic County) are living in poverty.

Figure 10



Cognitive disabilities and, to a lesser extent, hearing disabilities are the only groups in which the male population is greater than the female population.

- 13,393 women and 7,868 men have ambulatory (walking) disabilities.
- 8,230 women and 5,530 men have independent living disabilities. As defined by the US Census, independent living disabilities are ones in which the individuals has difficulty completing routine errands such as getting to doctor appointments.
- 8,068 women and 7,643 men have cognitive disabilities.
- 4,932 women and 2,684 men have self-care disabilities. As defined by the US Census, self-care disabilities are ones in which the individual has difficulty getting around their home, bathing, or dressing.
- 4,209 women and 3,461 men have vision disabilities.
- 3,940 women and 5,662 men have hearing disabilities.

Figure 11

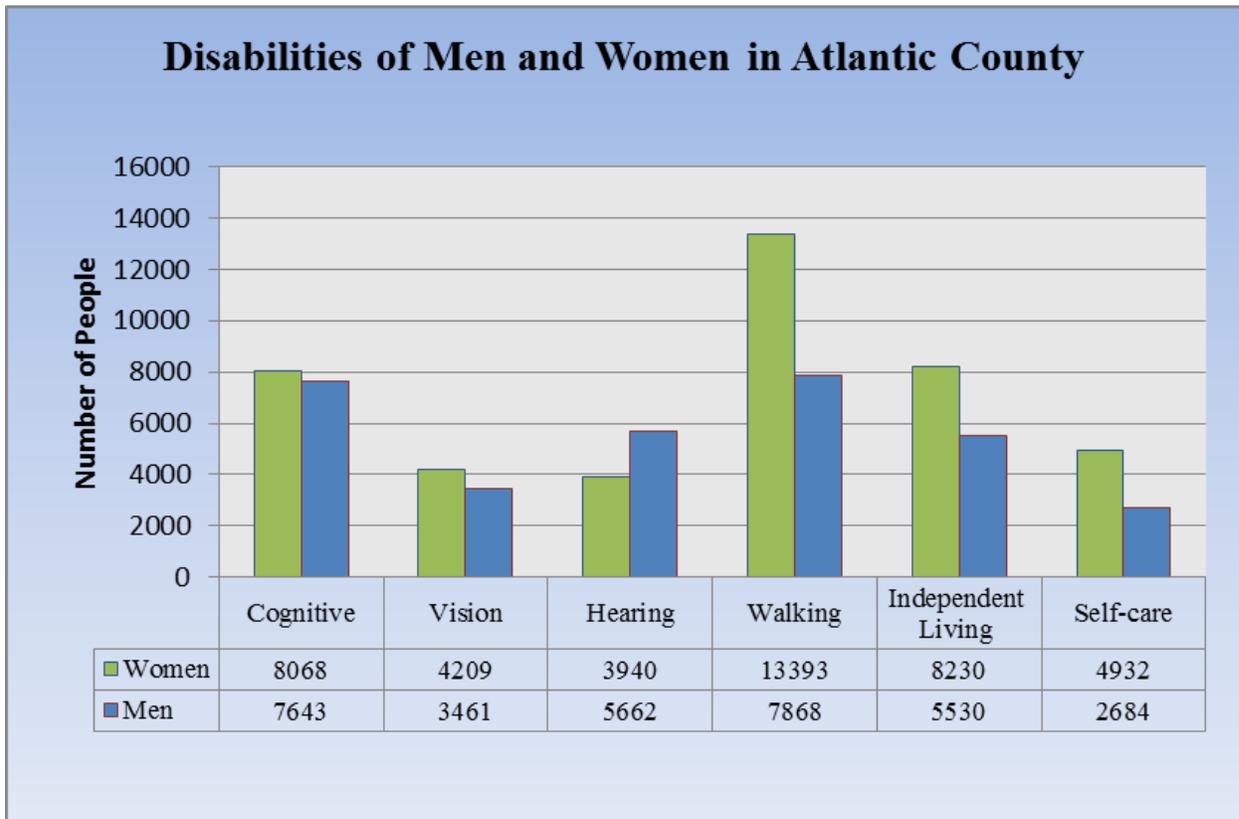


Figure 12

With regard to disability and age, the majority of women and men with disabilities are over the age of 75, though the percentage of disabled women in that same age group is 11.1 percentage points higher than men. Generally speaking, in most age categories the percentage disabled is higher for women than men.

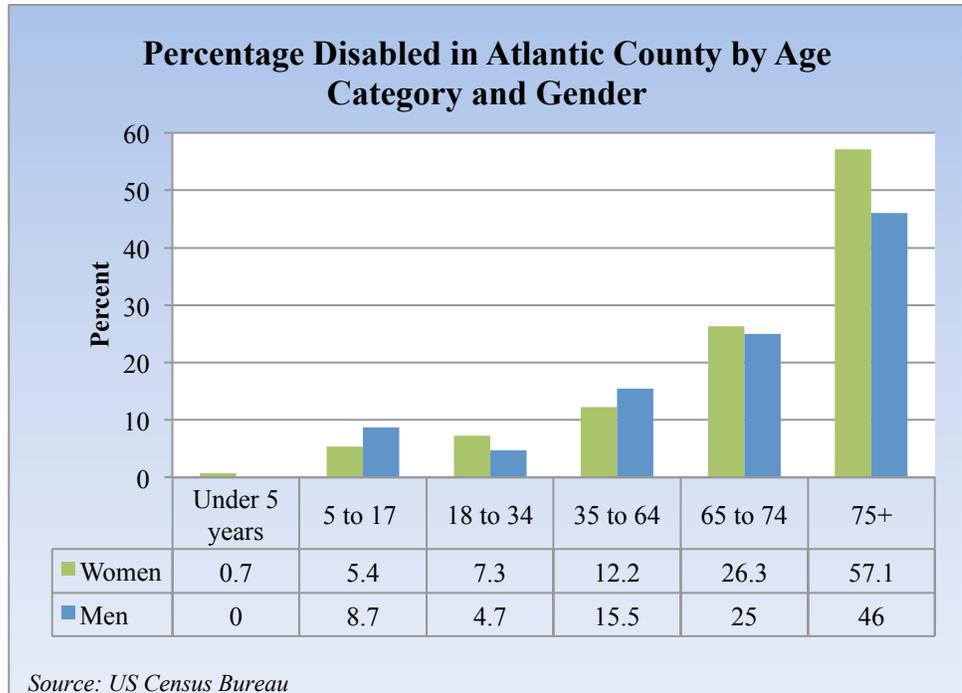
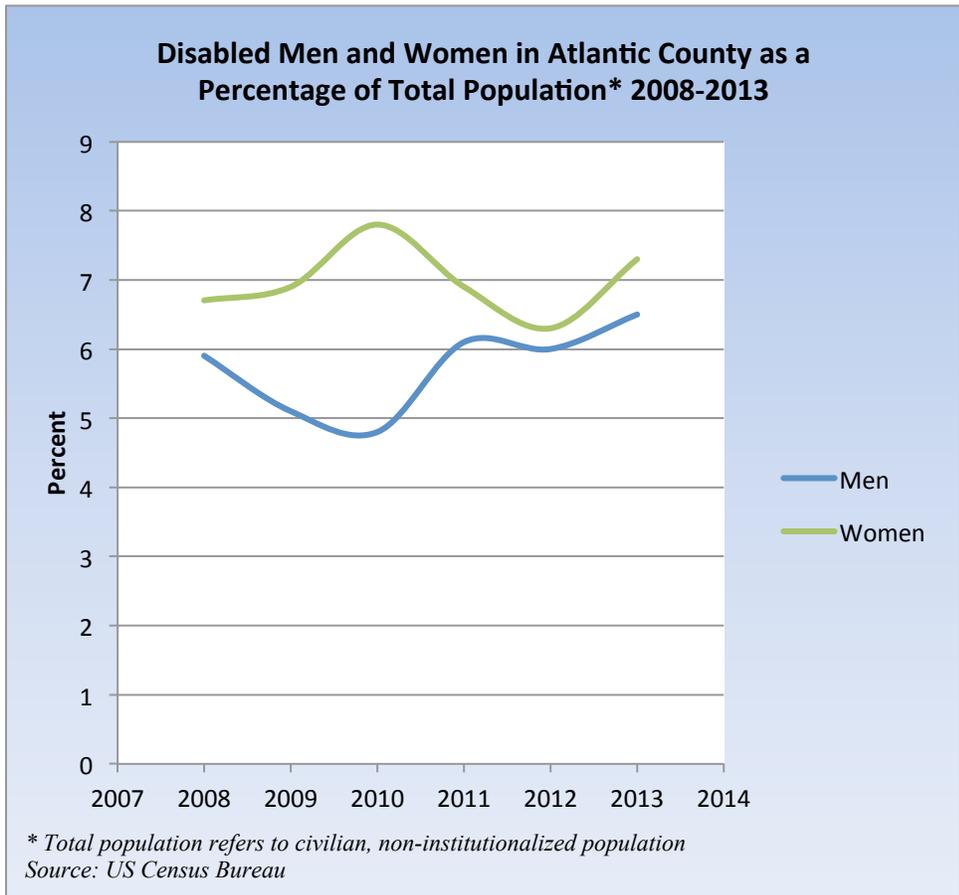


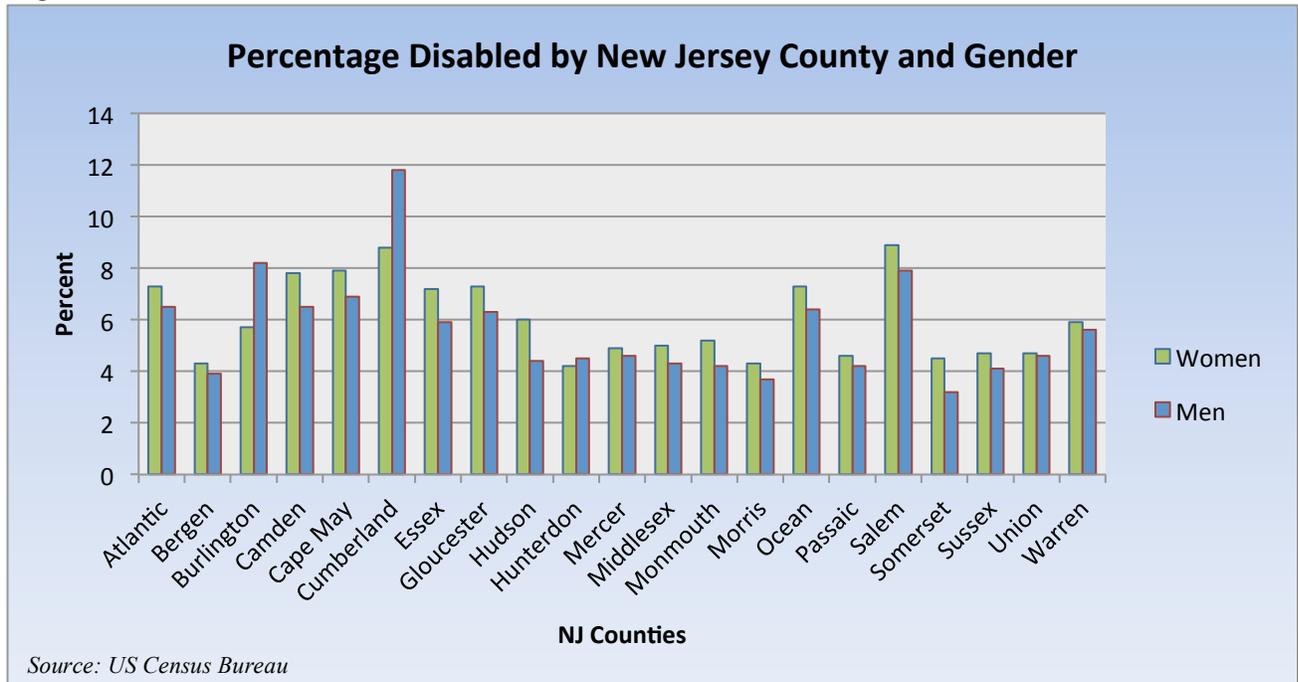
Figure 13



Since 2012, the number of disabled men and women in Atlantic County has been rising as a percentage of the total population. Disabled women as a percentage of the total population has been increasing slightly faster than disabled men.

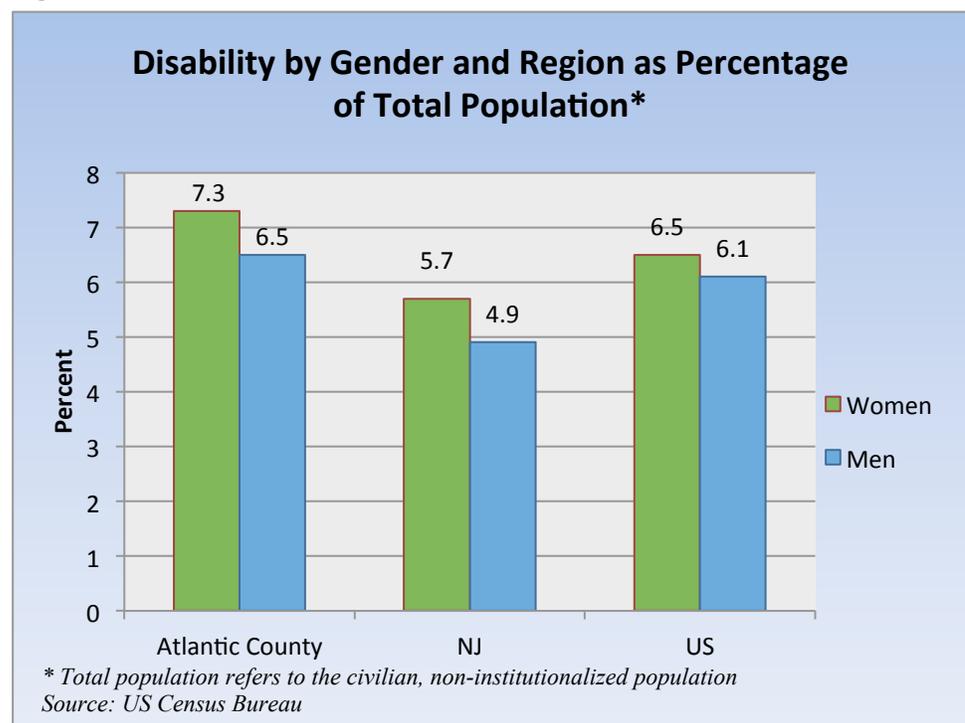
Compared to all of New Jersey’s counties, Atlantic County ties with Ocean County for having the fifth highest percentage of disabled women at 7.3%. Atlantic County ties with Camden County for having the fourth highest percentage of disabled men at 6.5%. In all but 3 of New Jersey’s 21 counties, there is a larger percentage of disabled women than disabled men.

Figure 14



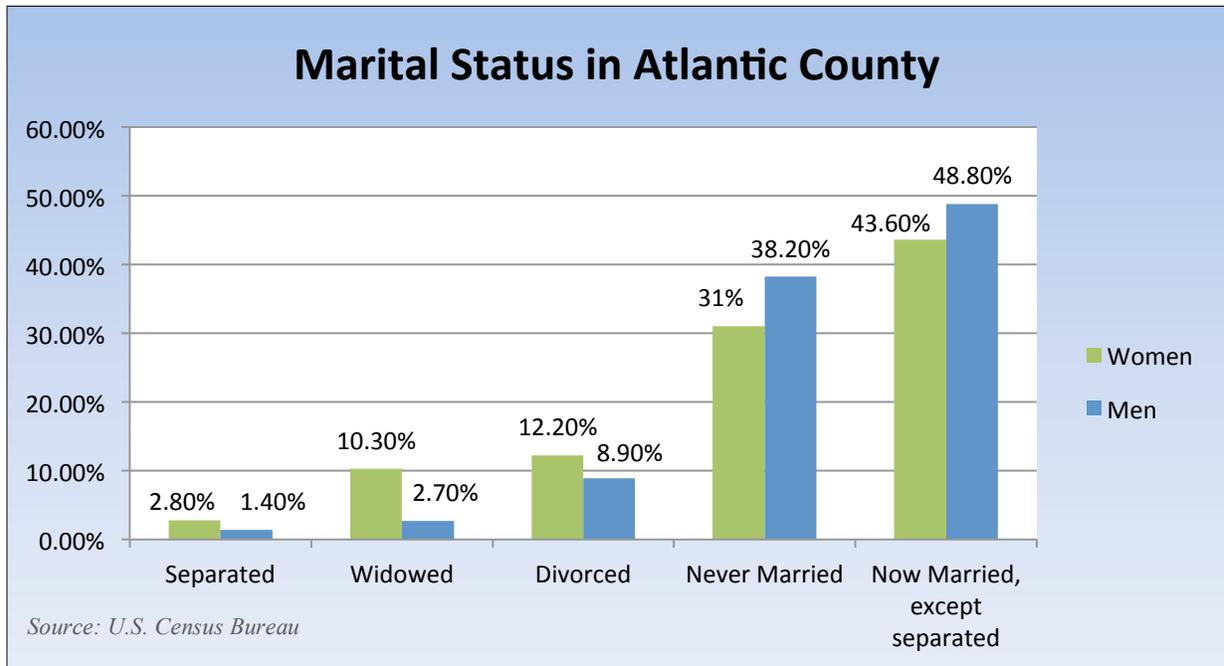
Compared to the state and nation, Atlantic County has a generally higher percentage of disabled men and women. For women, the difference is more apparent with the percentage of disabled women in Atlantic County being 1.4 percentage points higher than the state of New Jersey.

Figure 15



V. Marital Status

Figure 16

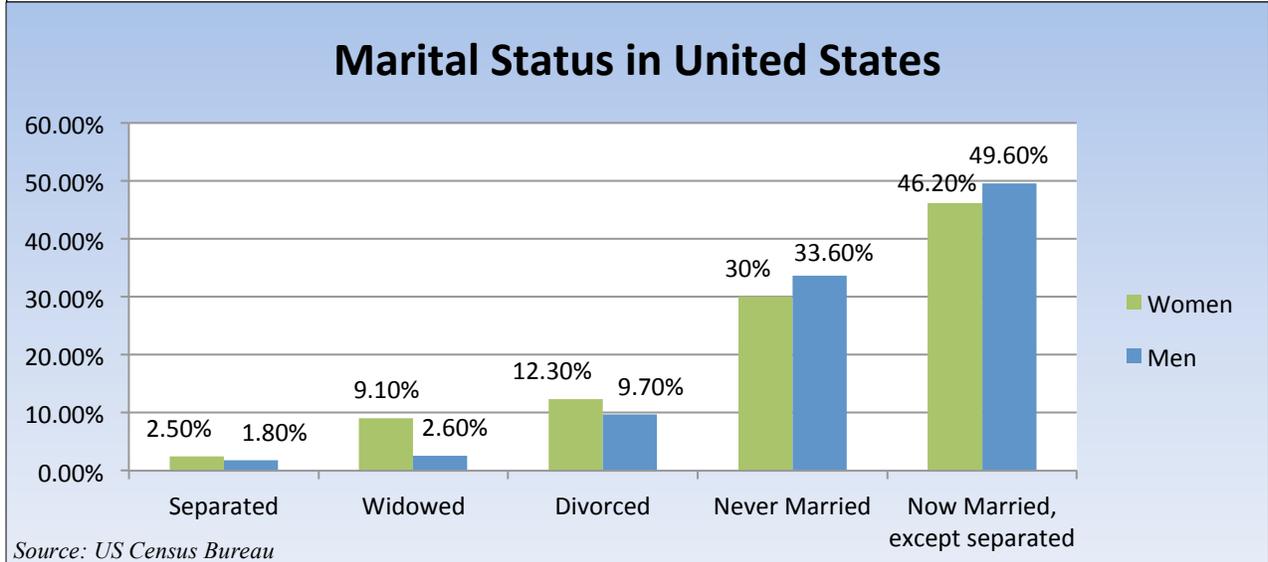
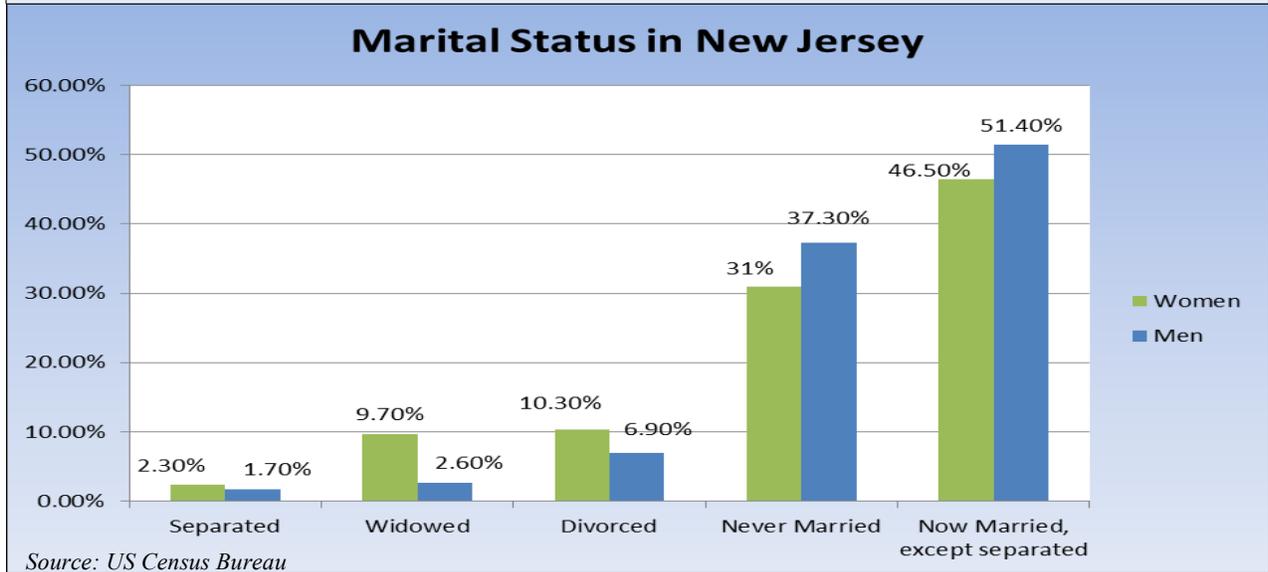
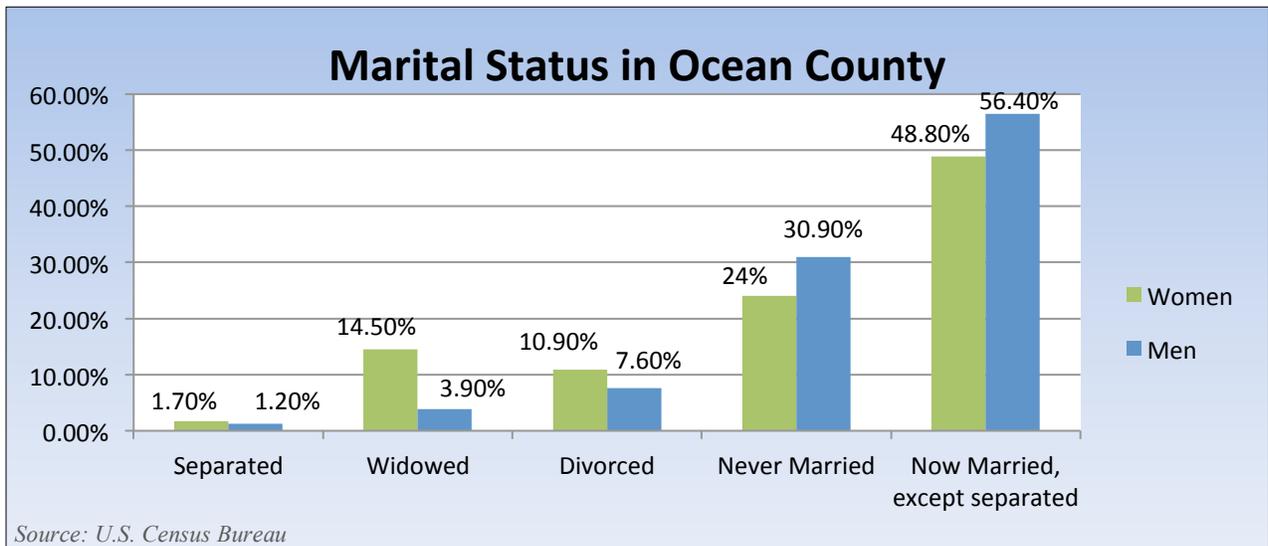


Marriage is the most commonly reported marital status. Almost half of Atlantic County men and approximately 44% of Atlantic County women are currently married (and not separated). Same-sex marriage has been legal in New Jersey since October 2013 when a state superior court decision overruled a December 2006 Act, which recognized only civil unions.

Across the board, the rate of separations is comparable. Both men and women are widowed at a slightly higher rate in Atlantic County than in New Jersey or in the United States as a whole. Atlantic County's marital status statistics as a whole are not substantially different than the marital status statistics for nearby Ocean County, the entire state of New Jersey, or the United States as a whole.

Atlantic County has a lower percentage of people who are widowed than Ocean County does. Next, Atlantic County has a higher divorce rate than the state of New Jersey or Ocean County for both women and men. The divorce percentage in Atlantic County is actually closer to the divorce percentage of the United States. The percentage of women in Atlantic County that have never been married is around the national and state average, whilst still lower than Ocean County. This is one statistic where the women are actually lower than men. The percentage of men never married in New Jersey is near the Atlantic County average, and both of these percentages are higher than the percentage of men never married in the United States.

Figures 17-19



Section 2:

Political Participation

Political participation is an excellent indicator of the status of women in an area. This is because when women are active in politics, it also suggests that they are educated and motivated to participate. It took over a century and an amendment to the constitution for women to gain the right to vote in the United States. Women now have a voice when it comes to government decisions and political elections. This section presents information on women's participation in politics in Atlantic County in comparison to New Jersey as well as the United States as a whole.



Source: National Museum of American History, Kenneth E. Behring Center
(<http://americanhistory.si.edu>)

comparatively more active in voting in the November 2012 general election than men. The percentage of women voters in New Jersey has changed over time, but it has always been relatively high compared to the United States.

Political participation in New Jersey is on par with the country as a whole. While gender-specific data from Atlantic County would have been ideal, the information provided demonstrates how women—compared to men—utilize their right to vote.

To begin, research was conducted on how many women in Atlantic County hold elected public office as compared to men. This information is important because of the underrepresentation of women in politics. Considerably fewer women hold political office in Atlantic County than do men.

Unfortunately, Atlantic County does not collect gender-specific data regarding voting. Therefore, summarized findings from New Jersey as a whole were analyzed. Based on the available data women were

New Jersey women ranked higher than men in voter registration for four consecutive elections.

The average percentage of women in elected political office in Atlantic County is about 18%.

In the United States and New Jersey more women voted than men in the 2012 presidential election.

Since 1980, women generally have had a greater voter turnout than men.

I. Elected Officials by Gender

Atlantic County has twenty-three municipalities. The data were compiled from the official government website for Atlantic County, which has the names of all municipalities and lists the people in political offices. The following table highlights the number of women and men office holders for each municipality. This consists of a mayor and the city council or council equivalent in each of the municipalities.

Not included in Table 1 (below) is the number of female mayors in Atlantic County, which is a total of two, or about 8.7% of Atlantic County by municipalities. In comparison, the 2015 numbers for female mayors of cities in the US with populations of 30,000 and above (the closest national equivalent available) is 17.6%. As a result, Atlantic County's percentage of mayoral municipal offices held by women is about half that of the nation as a whole.

Table 1 below outlines the following:

- There are twenty-three municipalities in Atlantic County, of which six have no women in political office. Of those municipalities that do have women holding office, their male counterparts generally outnumber women.
- Of all the elected officeholders in Atlantic County, only about 18% are women.

Table 1

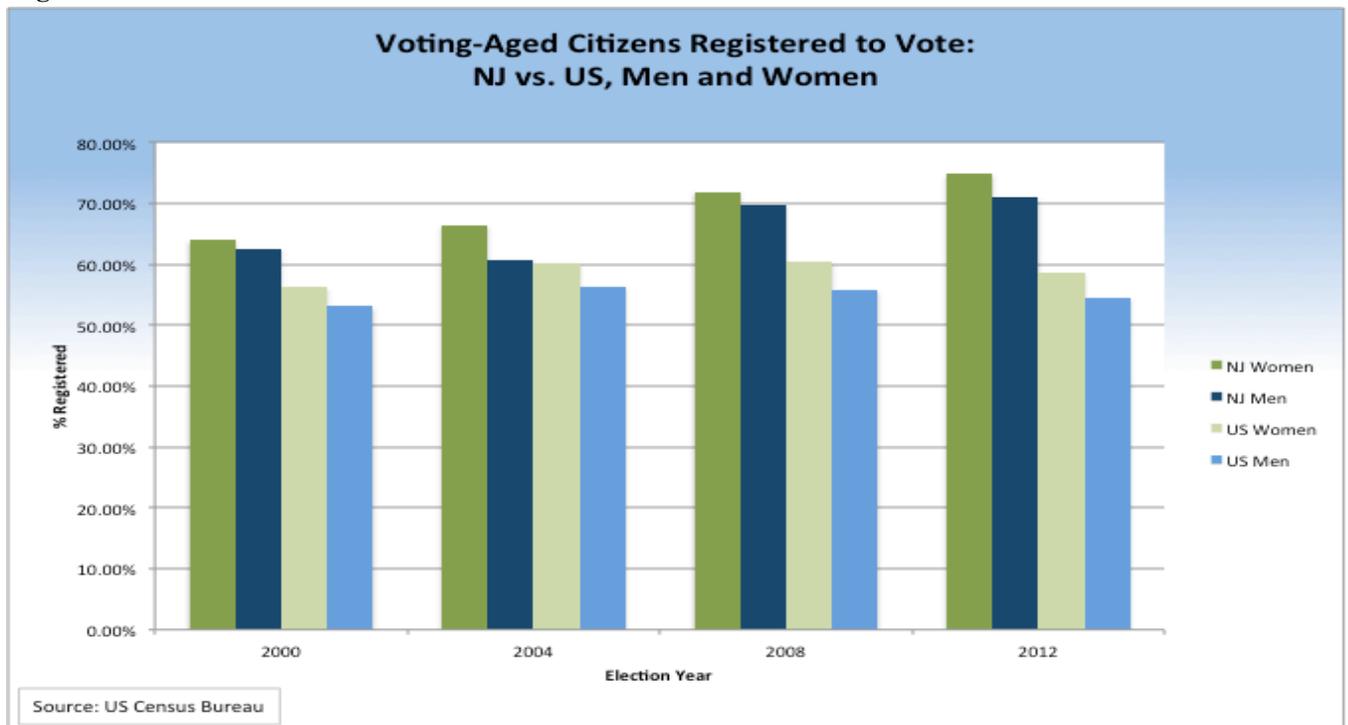
Municipality	Women in Political Office	Men in Political Office	Total People in Office	Percentage of Women in Office	Ratio of Women to Men
Absecon	2	6	8	25%	1/3
Atlantic City	0	10	10	0%	0
Brigantine	2	4	6	33%	1/2
Buena Boro	1	6	7	14%	1/6
Buena Vista	1	4	5	20%	1/4
Corbin City	2	2	4	50%	1
Egg Harbor City	3	7	10	30%	3/7
Egg Harbor Twp	1	4	5	20%	1/4
Estelle Manor	1	4	5	20%	1/4
Folsom	1	6	7	14%	1/6
Galloway	0	7	7	0%	0
Hamilton	2	3	5	40%	2/3
Hammonton	0	7	7	0%	0
Linwood	1	7	8	13%	1/7
Longport	0	3	3	0%	0
Margate	1	2	3	33%	1/2
Mullica	1	4	5	20%	1/4
Northfield	0	8	8	0%	0
Pleasantville	1	7	8	13%	1/7
Port Republic	2	6	8	25%	1/3
Somers Point	1	7	8	13%	1/7
Ventnor	1	2	3	33%	1/2
Weymouth	0	3	3	0%	0
TOTAL	24	119	143	-	-
AVERAGE	1.0	5.2	-	18%	1/4

Source: Atlantic County Government Website (<http://www.aclink.org/Admin/Main/Municipal.asp>)

II. Voter Registration in the Last General Election

Atlantic County does not collect gender-specific voting registration statistics (confirmed by an employee of the Office of the Atlantic County Superintendent of Elections through personal communication on October 18, 2014). Therefore, statistics for New Jersey as a whole are given.

Figure 1



The above graph shows the percent of voting-aged citizens that were registered to vote in New Jersey and the United States in election years since 2000. As we can see, NJ women had the highest overall registration rate for the last four elections, and are steadily increasing. NJ men had the second highest registration rate, thus making NJ's overall registration rate higher than the rest of the US. In general, there were fewer men registered in the United States than women.

- Overall, New Jersey residents have had consistently higher rates of voter registration than United States residents as a whole.
- In both the United States and New Jersey, women are consistently more likely to be registered to vote than men.

Table 2 below shows the exact percentages for the above graph.

Table 2

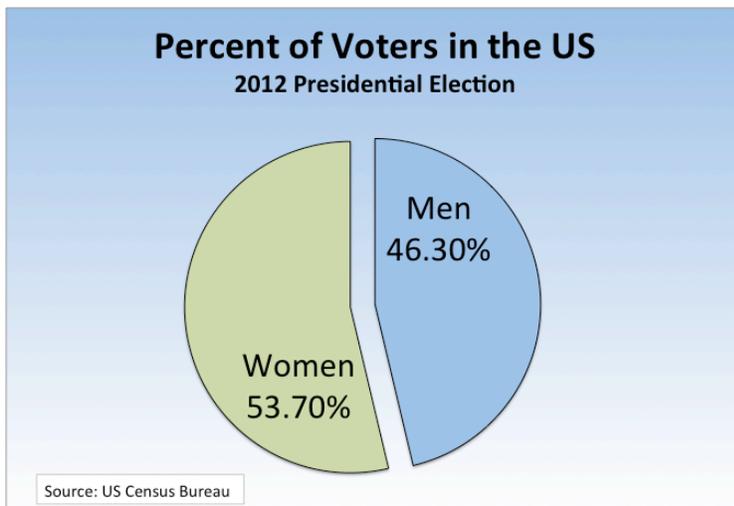
Election Year	% of Adult Women Registered to Vote: NJ (18+)	% of Adult Men Registered to Vote: NJ (18+)	% of Adult Women Registered to Vote: US (18+)	% of Adult Men Registered to Vote: US (18+)
2000	63.90%	62.40%	56.20%	53.10%
2004	66.40%	60.70%	60.10%	56.30%
2008	71.90%	69.80%	60.40%	55.70%
2012	74.80%	70.90%	58.50%	54.40%

Note that in New Jersey, percentages of women registered to vote have consistently increased over time. This is a positive sign for women’s political participation.

III. Voter Turnout in the Last National General Election

During the 2012 presidential election more women voted than men. According to Rutgers University's Center for American Women and Politics, 63.7 percent of the adult population of women in the country voted, while 59.8 percent of the population of men voted. In fact, since 1980, women have had a greater voter-turnout than adult men. While gender-specific information regarding voters was available on a national scale, there were no data for Atlantic County.

Figure 2



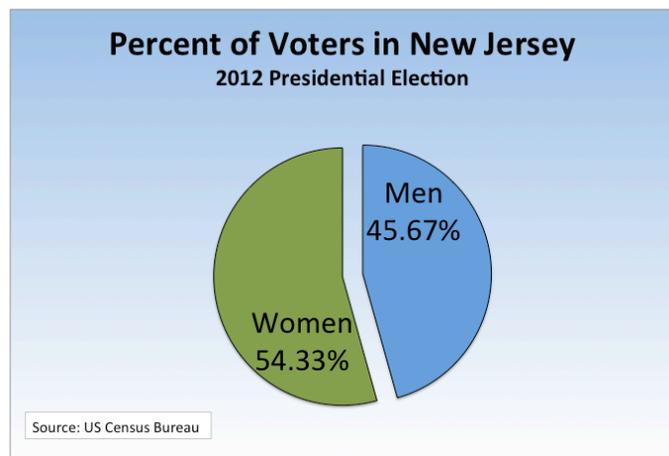
Of those who voted in 2012, 53.7% were women, while 46.3% were men. So not only did a larger portion of the female population come out to vote, but also the percentage of votes that was cast by women was also higher than men.

The New Jersey Division of Elections found that only 11 percent of eligible voters in New Jersey participated in primary elections. In Atlantic County, only 10 percent of eligible voters participated in primary elections.

Figure 3

Neither the New Jersey Division of Elections nor the Atlantic County Clerk held records of gender-specific voting information, though the US Census Bureau did have statistics on the gender of New Jersey voters. This at least allows us to compare New Jersey, as a proxy for Atlantic County, to the nation.

- *New Jersey voted at a rate similar to the United States as a whole.*
- *The percentage of women that voted in 2012 was 54.33%, while the percentage of men that voted was 45.67%.*
- *In general, women voted at higher rates than men in both the United States and New Jersey.*



IV. Status of Commissions and Task Forces on the Status of Women

Atlantic County

Atlantic County has a task force specifically focused on women, called the Atlantic County Advisory Commission on Women (ACACW). The mission of this commission is to “advocate on behalf of women and girls by providing venues that foster equality, knowledge, and opportunities to obtain well being”.

The history and role of the Commission as well as information about its activities can be found here: <http://www.aclink.org/Boards/acacw/>. Atlantic County is one of sixteen counties in New Jersey that has a commission focused on women.

New Jersey

New Jersey also has a commission focused on women, under the Department of Children and Family, called The New Jersey Advisory Commission on the Status of Women (NJACSW). The commission “gives recommendations regarding policies and programs; provides technical assistance to county and municipal commissions on women; assists in the formation of commissions; and co-sponsors several events with the Division on Women”. Details about the commission can be found here:

<http://www.nj.gov/DCF/providers/boards/commissions/>.

Additionally, the state of New Jersey has the following boards, commissions, and authorities with a special focus on women and families:

- Commission on Women Veterans
- Minority and Women's Business Development Advisory Council
- Women's Health Advisory Commission
- Advisory Council Against Sexual Violence
- Advisory Council on Adolescent Pregnancy
- Advisory Council on Domestic Violence
- Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund Commission
- Child Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board
- Commission on Human Trafficking
- Commission to Examine Strategies for Strengthening the Familial Bond Between Children and Incarcerated Parents
- Domestic Violence Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board

And, there are a few national task forces, though most notable is the National Association of Commissions on Women: <http://www.nacw.org/>. New Jersey is part of Region Two, which also includes commissions from New York, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Section 3:

Employment and Earnings

Recovery from the most recent national recession has been particularly challenging for Atlantic County. Atlantic City's struggling casino industry heavily exacerbates the consequences of a nation-wide recession as four of the city's twelve casinos were closed by November 2014 and more than 10,000 jobs were lost as a result. This reality should inform our considerations as we compare employment and earnings between men and women in Atlantic County.

When we make this comparison, we find the following realities in Atlantic County:

- Men are 1.2 times more likely than women to be in the civilian labor force. Women are less likely than men to be employed in full-time, year-round positions.
- The number of persons employed in full-time, year round jobs has been steadily declining since 2005 and is low compared to all other counties in New Jersey.
- Compared to all other New Jersey counties, the median wage for full-time, year-round female workers is lowest in Atlantic County.
- Men are much more likely to be self-employed or federal government workers; women are much more likely to be state government workers or private not-for-profit wage and salary workers.
- In 2013, Atlantic County residents worked approximately 4,918,824 hours. Despite the increased likelihood of Atlantic County women working part-time jobs, they worked almost as many hours as men by the end of the year.
- The median earnings of men and women in Atlantic County are less than in New Jersey and the United States as a whole. Median real earnings for men and women have been declining since 2005.

Of all of New Jersey counties, Atlantic County has the third largest gender wage gap between men and women's median earnings for full-time, year-round workers.

The percentage of households receiving food stamps/SNAP in Atlantic County is higher than the national level and is the fifth highest percentage of all New Jersey counties. The majority of recipient households are female-headed where there is no husband present.

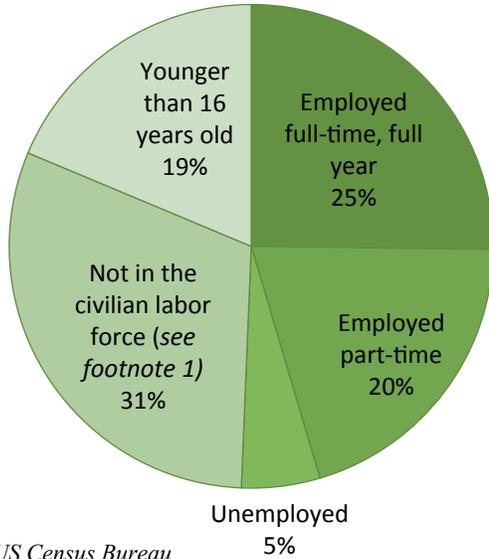
Compared to all NJ counties, Atlantic County has the third highest percentage of population falling below the poverty line. Women are more likely than men to fall in this category.

Since 2011, the unemployment rate for men and women has decreased, while the percentage of people (16 years and over) falling below the poverty line has increased.

I. Employment Status

Figure 1

Employment Status of Atlantic County Women

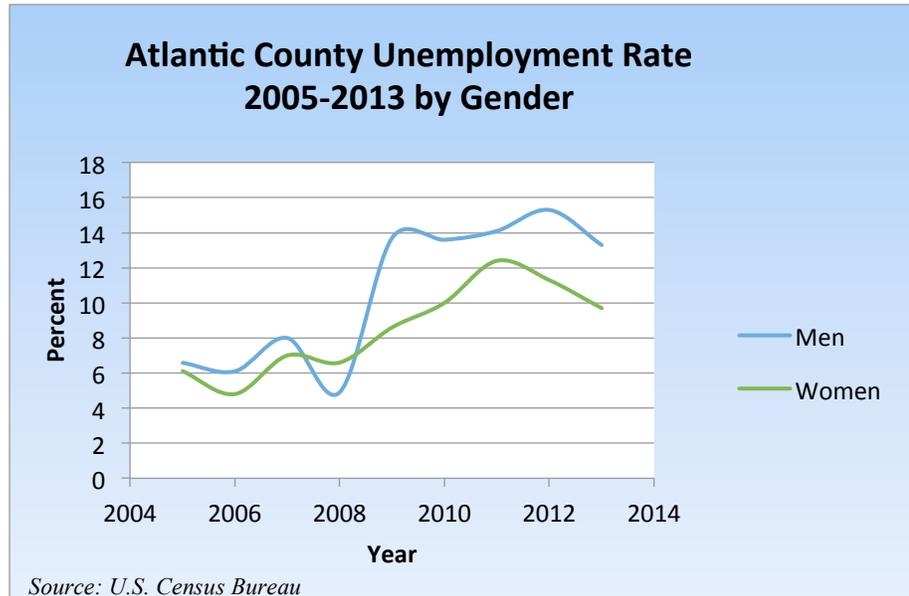


Source: US Census Bureau

Of the 141,924 women in Atlantic County, the overwhelming majority (115,407) are ages 16 years and over and approximately 62.3% of these women are in the civilian labor force¹. Approximately 89.7% of the women who are in the civilian labor force are employed.

Over time, we see that the unemployment rate of women is generally less than that of men and that the unemployment rate for women has decreased since 2011.

Figure 2

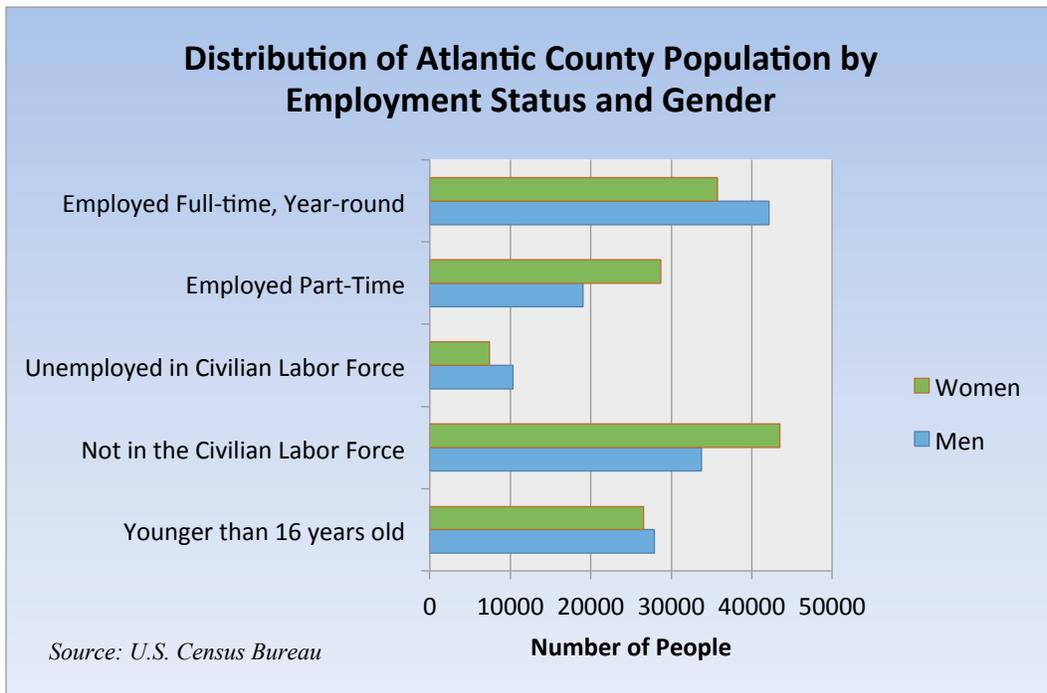


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

¹ According to the U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics, a person is in the labor force if they are (1) employed or (2) unemployed but has looked for work in the past four weeks and is currently available to work. Those not in the labor force consist mainly of students, homemakers, retired workers, seasonal workers interviewed in an off season who were not looking for work, institutionalized people, and people doing only incidental unpaid family work (less than 15 hours during the reference week).

When we include men in the picture and compare categories, we see the distribution below.

Figure 3

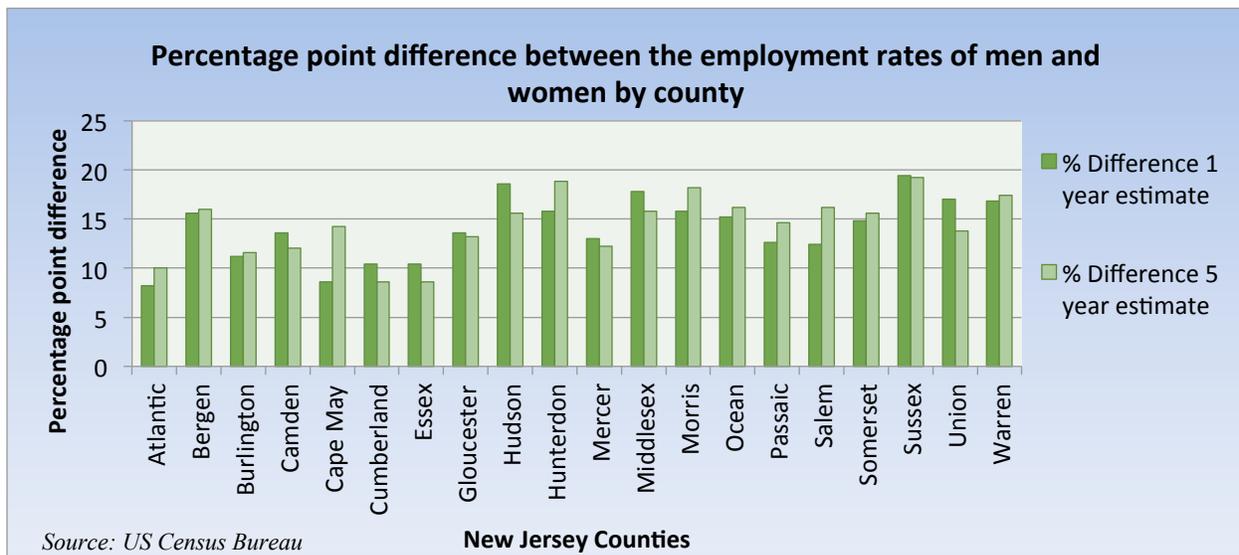


Of persons 16 years and older:

- Women are approximately 1.3 times as likely not to be in the civilian labor force than men.
- “Employment” does not always mean a dependable, 40-hour per week salaried position: women are approximately 1.4 times more likely to be employed part-time than men; hence, of the 64,481 women ages 16 years and over who are employed, only 55.5% of those women can lay claim to a full-time, year-round job. The number of men who can make the same claim is approximately 17.9% higher than the number of women.

Most other counties, though, are worse. Compared to other counties in New Jersey, Atlantic County actually has a lower gap between the percent of men and women employed, and this stays relatively consistent between 1-year and 5-year estimates.

Figure 4



Opportunities for finding reliable employment are slowly but steadily declining in Atlantic County. Between 2005 and 2013 the number of total people who were employed in full-time, year-round jobs experienced an 8.5% decrease from 88,008 in 2005 to 80,537 in 2013.

While the amount of full-time, year-round employment in Atlantic County has slowly decreased since 2005, the percentage of women working full-time has slightly increased from 41.8% to 45%. Nevertheless, this slightly increased percentage still demonstrates that women are a minority in the full-time, year-round civilian population 16 years and over.

Table 1

Women in the Civilian Labor Force Working Full-Time, Year-Round 2005-2013		
Year	Percentage of women in full-time, year-round civilian employed population	Number of Women ages 16 years and over in the civilian labor force
2005	41.8	66,335
2006	43.1	69,292
2007	43.1	67,700
2008	42.4	68,072
2009	41.9	72,117
2010	42.9	69,581
2011	43.3	72,375
2012	44.2	72,419
2013	45	71,913

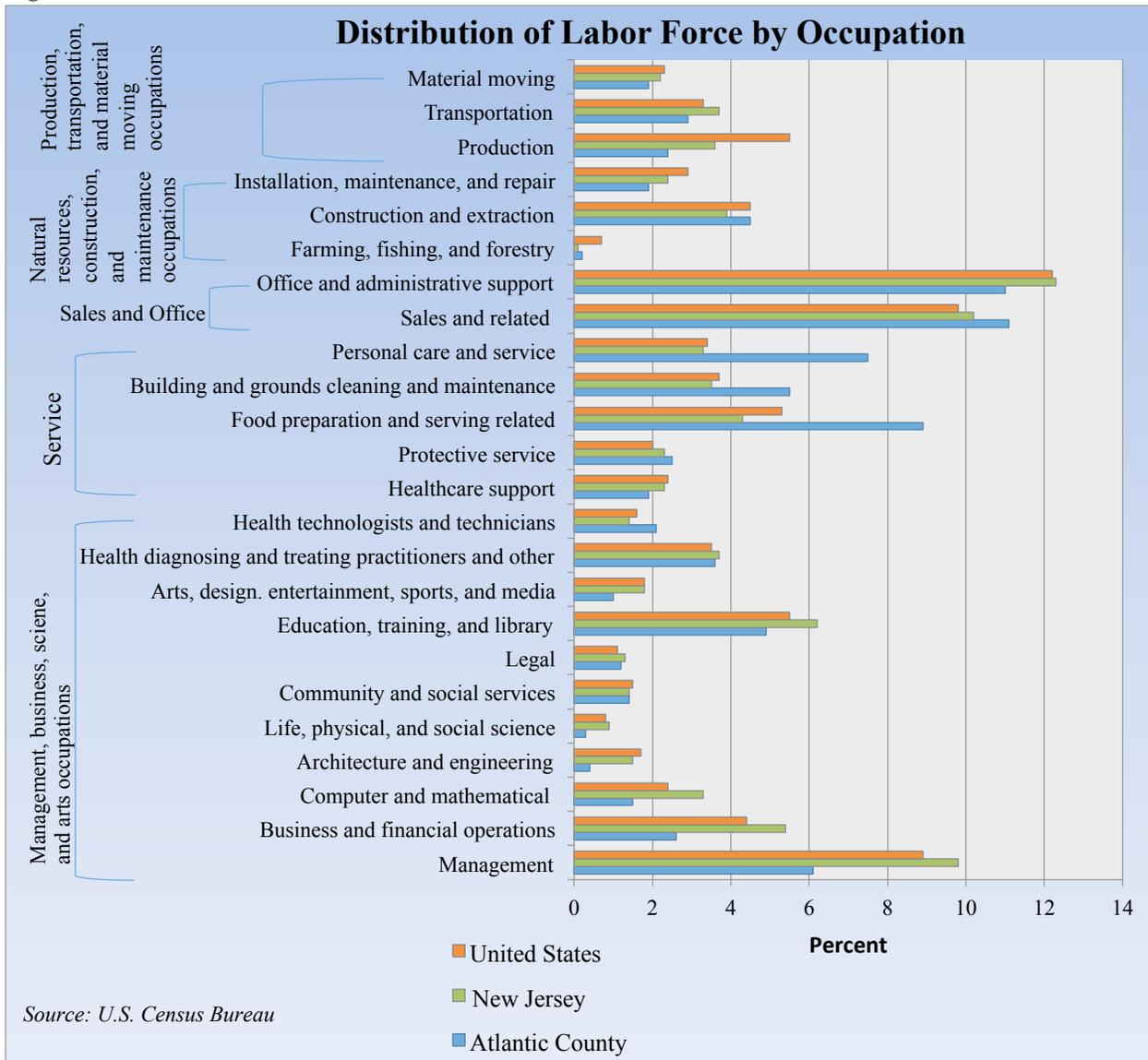
Despite their minority status as full-time, year-round workers, however, the percentage of women employed full-time, year-round has kept pace with the addition of women to the labor force and has even increased since 2010 (Table 1).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

II. Occupations

Unsurprisingly, Atlantic County’s labor force is mostly employed in service occupations². In fact, there is a greater percentage of people employed in this category in Atlantic County than in either New Jersey or the United States as a whole. Further, while the second highest occupational category is “Management, Business, Science, and Arts,” Atlantic County employs a significantly reduced percentage of people in this category compared to both New Jersey and the United States. Falling not far behind is the percentage of people in Atlantic County employed in “Sales and Office” occupations (25%); this is comparable to percentages of people employed in this category in both New Jersey and the United States.

Figure 5



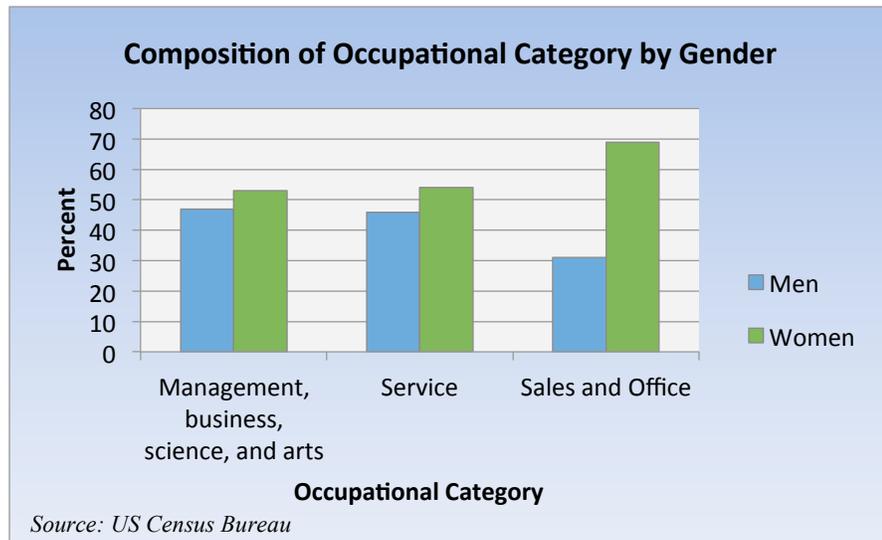
² The following occupations are considered “service occupations” as per Census guidelines: healthcare support, protective service, food preparation and serving related, building and grounds cleaning and maintenance, and personal care and service.

With regard to the three largest occupational categories, Figure 5 shows the following:

First, the vast majority of persons employed in “Sales and Office” occupations are women.

Further, while “management, business, science, and arts” and “service” occupations seem to more evenly split between men and women, women are a majority in both categories.

Figure 6



Our assessment of women’s occupations in Atlantic County can be expanded by comparing the percentages of women in each occupation category to those of both New Jersey and the United States:

Table 2

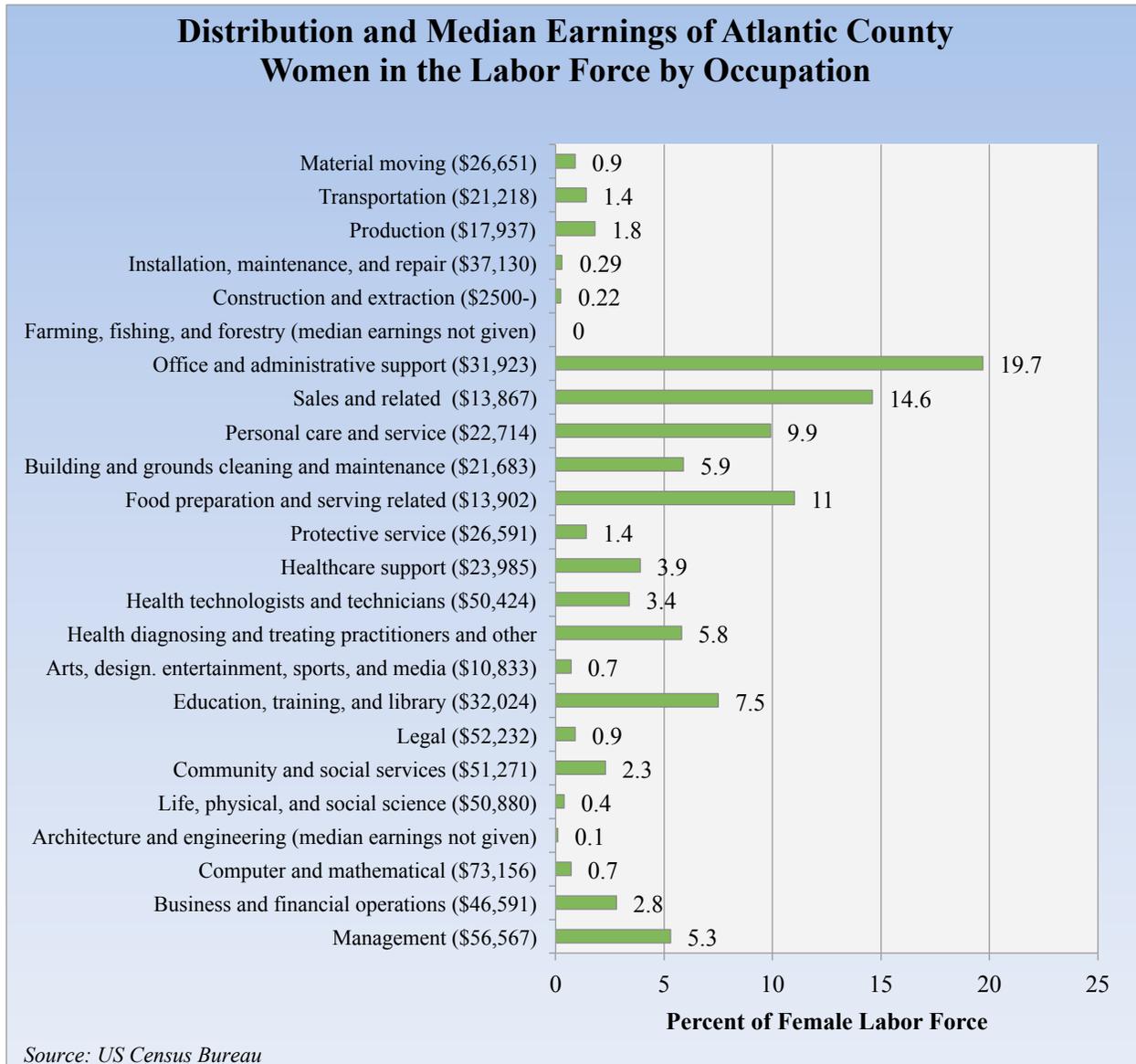
Composition of Occupation by Gender						
	Atlantic County		New Jersey		United States	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Management, Business, Science, and Arts	47	53	48.9	51.1	47.8	52.2
<i>Percentage point difference</i>	6		2.2		4.4	
Service Fields	45.9	54.1	46.2	53.8	43.6	56.4
<i>Percentage point difference</i>	8.2		7.6		12.8	
Sales and Office	31	69	39.1	60.9	37.6	62.4
<i>Percentage point difference</i>	38		21.8		24.8	

Note: Figures are in percentages
Source: US Census Bureau

Table 2 demonstrates that although Atlantic County has less of a workforce in “Management, Business, Science, and Arts” occupations compared to New Jersey and the United States, it has a majority of women employed in this category that is higher than the majorities found in the same regions. With regard to “Sales and Office” occupations—a category in which approximately a quarter of Atlantic County’s civilian labor force is employed—women are significantly more represented and by a margin that is also significantly higher than that found in New Jersey and the United States.

Figure 7 below focuses on what occupations the majority of women are employed in:

Figure 7



From the data, based on U.S. Census categories, we can see that the highest proportion of women (21,885) are employed in “Sales and Office” occupations³ followed closely by “Service” occupations (20,508).⁴ This should inform our later consideration of the median earnings of Atlantic County women.⁵

³ The following occupations are considered “Sales and Office occupations” as per Census guidelines: sales and related occupations, and office and administrative support occupations.

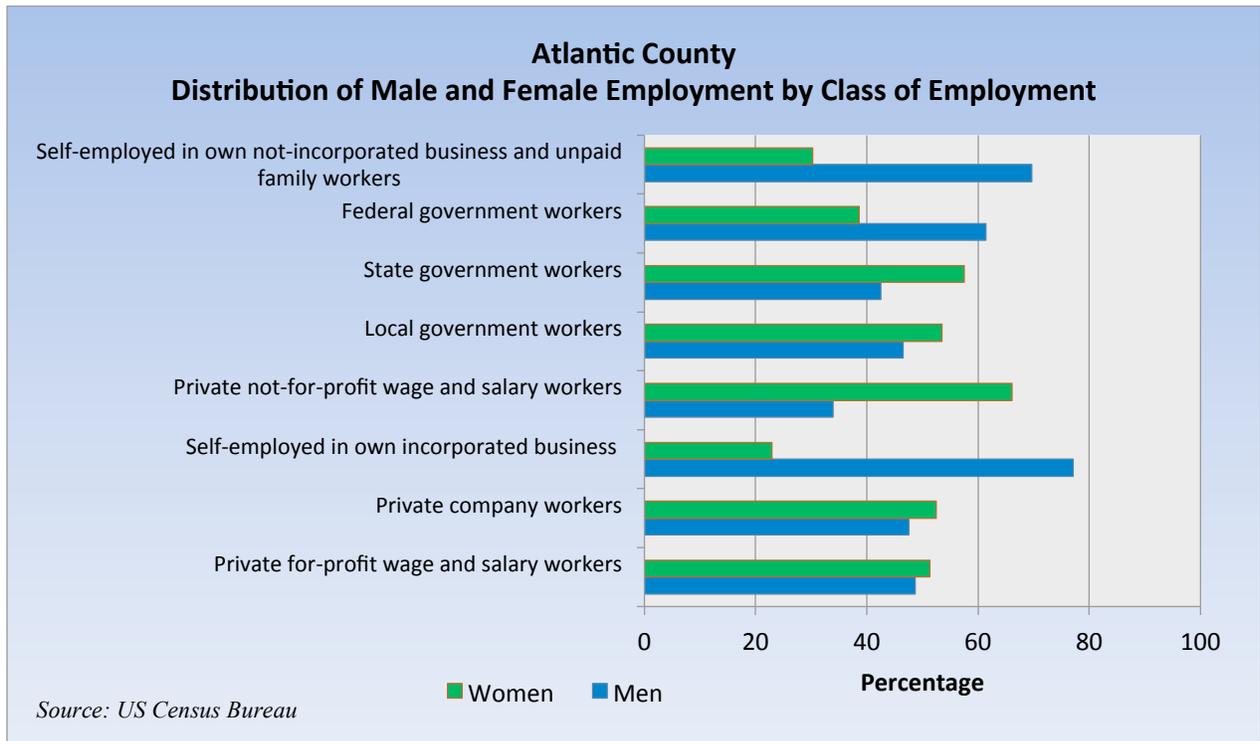
⁴ American Community Survey (2013 1-year estimate): Occupation by Sex and Median Earnings in the Past 12-months (n 2013 inflation-adjusted dollars) for the Civilian Employed Population 16 years and over.

⁵ Undoubtedly, an interesting question to ask is how many women in Atlantic County define their primary profession as “homemaker.” Unfortunately, however, the Census Bureau has not collected this data in Atlantic County, New Jersey or nationally.

III. Employment Class

If you are self-employed in Atlantic County, chances are that you are not a woman. The data displayed in Figure 8 shows us that an overwhelming majority of those self-employed in their own business (whether incorporated or not) are men. The gap between the percentage of men and women who are self-employed in Atlantic County constitutes the largest among employment classes. On the other hand, if you work for a private, not-for profit organization, then you are much more likely to be a woman.

Figure 8



From the graph above, we can organize the information according to whether a certain class of employment is likely to be comprised of mostly men or women:

- Mostly men**
- Self-employed in own incorporated business
 - Self-employed in own not-incorporated business and unpaid family worker
 - Federal government worker

- Mostly women**
- Private not-for-profit wage and salary worker
 - State government worker

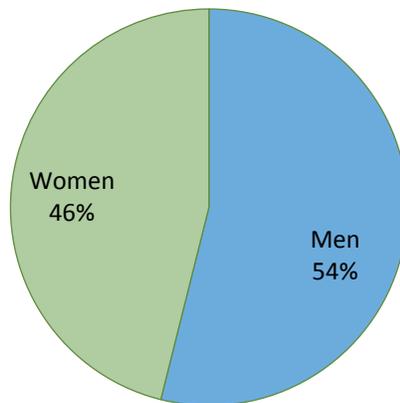
IV. Hours Worked

Women contribute almost as many hours as men to the aggregate total of hours worked in one year in Atlantic County. This is despite the fact that there are slightly less women in the labor force and that women are less likely to be employed full-time, year-round.

As illustrated below in Figure 9 and Table 3, women are more likely to work less hours per week. It is important to consider that there are a variety of reasons—including family responsibilities—why a woman may be working part-time. The increased likelihood of women working part-time, furthermore, is not unique to Atlantic County.

Figure 9

Percentage of Aggregate Hours Worked by Gender



Source: US Census Bureau

The shaded rows in Table 3 (below) are those where women constitute a majority.

Table 3

	Male	Female	% Difference
Total population ages 16 to 64	87,157	91,689	5.1
Worked in the past 12 months	66,297	66,762	0.7
Usually worked 35+ hours per week	53,775	41,999	24.6
50 to 52 weeks	40,730	34,439	16.7
48 to 49 weeks	1,121	1,085	3.3
40 to 47 weeks	3,422	2,579	28.1
27 to 39 weeks	2,088	1,122	60.2
14 to 26 weeks	2,973	1,263	80.7
1 to 13 weeks	3,441	1,511	77.9
Usually worked 15-34 hours per week	10,897	20,056	59.2
50 to 52 weeks	4,555	11,163	84.1
48 to 49 weeks	147	463	103.6
40 to 47 weeks	1,298	2,203	51.7
27 to 39 weeks	1,427	2,155	40.6
14 to 26 weeks	1,027	2,098	68.5
1 to 13 weeks	2,443	1,974	21.2
Usually worked 1-14 hours per week	1,625	4,707	97.3
50 to 52 weeks	316	1,449	128.4
48 to 49 weeks	78	169	73.7
40 to 47 weeks	56	419	152.8
27 to 39 weeks	260	406	43.8
14 to 26 weeks	399	1,075	91.7
1 to 13 weeks	516	1,189	78.9
Did not work in past 12 mos.	20,860	24,927	17.8

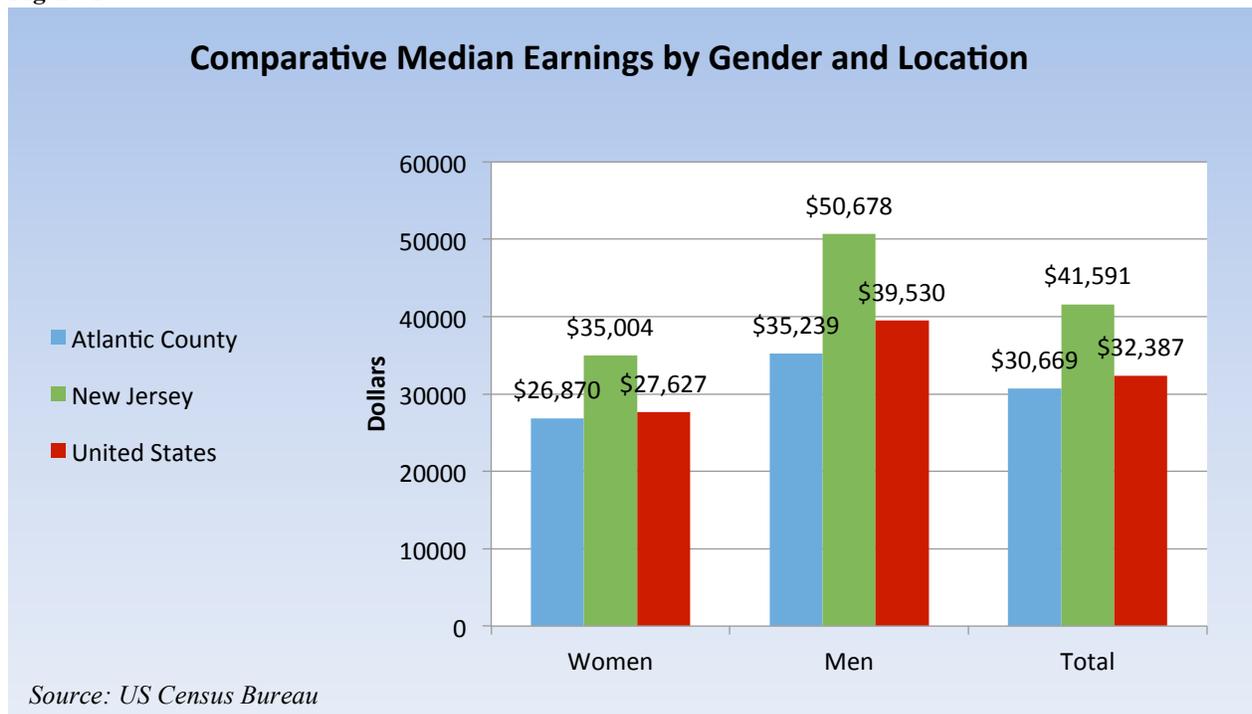
Source: US Census Bureau

V. Earnings and Income

In August 2014, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that with average weekly wages of \$813, Atlantic County has the lowest weekly wages of all of New Jersey’s large counties.⁶ Compared to all large counties nationwide (of which there are 334), BLS reports that this number in weekly wages (\$813) also puts Atlantic County in the bottom quartile at 270th. Contrastingly, the wage increases in Union and Morris Counties—Atlantic County’s northern neighbors—rank them in the top 10 large counties nationwide for wage increases.

Median earnings for Atlantic County employees were \$30,669 in 2013. This is only 5.3% less than total median earnings in the United States, but 26.3% less than the total median earnings in New Jersey. Breaking median wages down by gender gives a more specific picture of what wages in Atlantic County look like compared to the state and nation.

Figure 10



⁶ As per the Bureau of Labor Statistics, “large counties” are defined as those with employment of 75,000 or more as measured by 2012 annual average employment.

Presently, Atlantic County’s median earnings (\$30,669) constitute an increase of about \$249 from the median wage eight years ago in 2005. While any nominal addition to median earnings is likely welcomed, if this increase is compared to the rate of inflation since 2005, it becomes evident that median earnings have not kept up and have been increasingly less able to do so. If they had kept up with inflation since 2005, median earnings for the civilian employed population ages 16 years and over in Atlantic County would be approximately \$42,852 for men, \$28,812 for women, and \$36,285 for the total.⁷

Figure 11

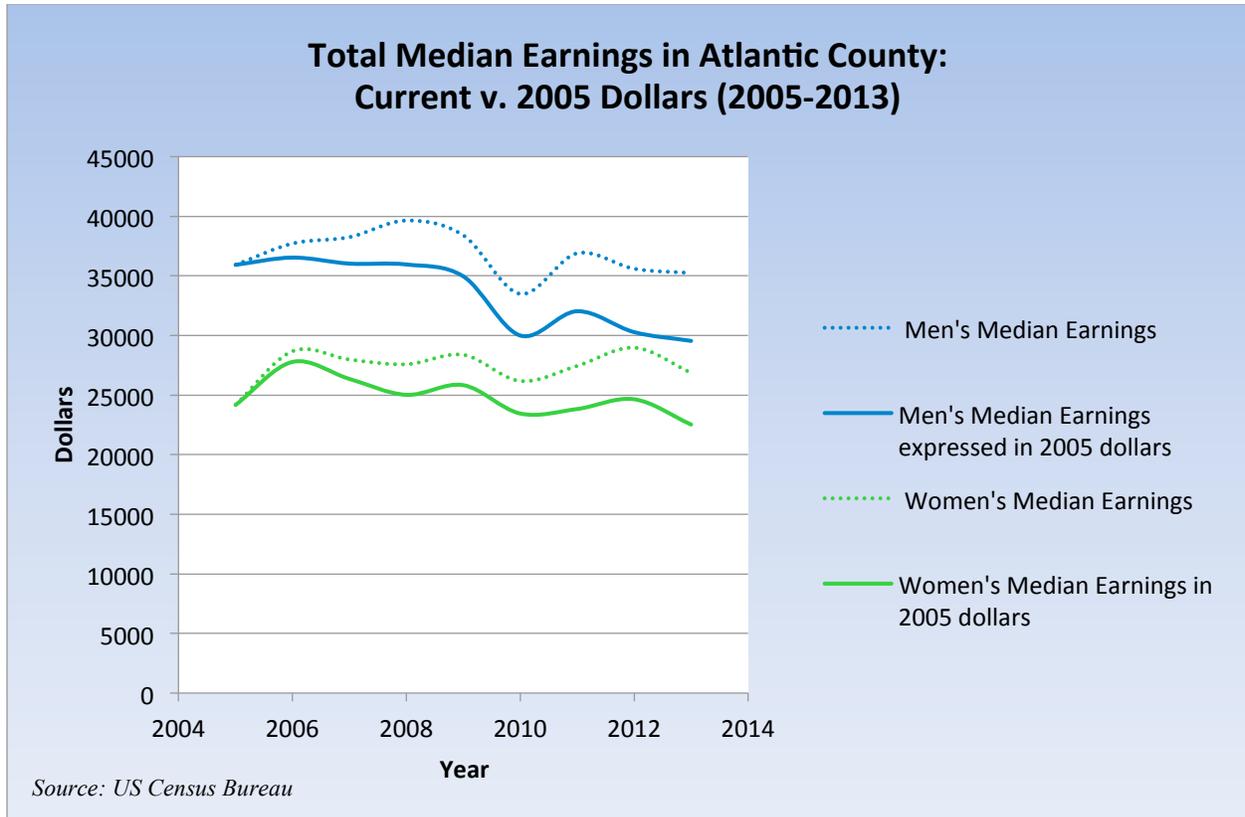


Figure 11 reveals:

- Women’s earnings have kept up with inflation better than men’s have.
- Men’s wages are currently 82% what they would be if they kept up with inflation since 2005 and women’s wages are 93% of the same respective figure.
- Currently, women’s median earnings are 23.7% less than men’s current median earnings. And the gap widens if the focus becomes full-time, year-round civilian employed workers ages 16 years and over.

⁷ Bureau of Labor Statistics: CPI Inflation Calculator.

A Final Note on Median Earnings

In addition to comparing median earnings of the employed population generally, it proves useful to focus on the median earnings of the majority of employed women. In other words, it is important to consider how much women are making in Atlantic County who are employed in “Sales and Office” and “Service” occupations since the majority of the female labor force is employed in these types of occupations (consider Figure 6).

Median earnings for women in sales and office occupations are \$24,376; in service occupations the figure is slightly lower at \$19,359. This means that the median earnings for a majority of the female labor force hovers around these figures. In light of this reality, it proves useful to consider that the majority of household recipients of SNAP/food stamps are those characterized by a female householder (no husband present) and that the median income for households receiving SNAP/food stamps in Atlantic County is \$19,178.

Full-time, Year-round Workers

As is expected, median earnings in Atlantic County for full-time, year-round workers increases from those of all civilian workers by 44.6% for men and 36.7% for women. Comparing Atlantic County to both New Jersey and the United States demonstrates that median earnings of women working full-time, year-round are lower in Atlantic County than they are in both larger regions; this is also true for the general civilian employed population working full-time, year-round. Men’s median earnings, however, are higher in Atlantic County than in the United States.

Figure 12

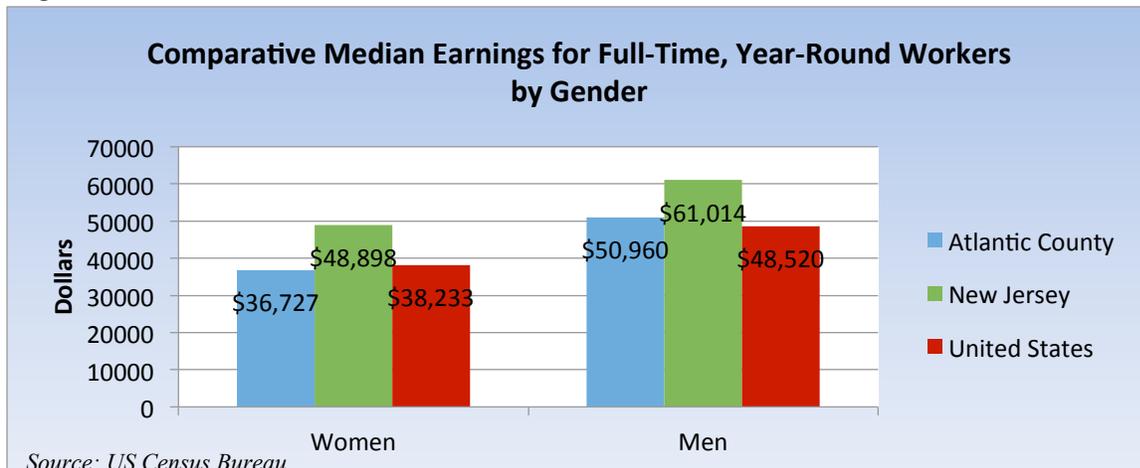
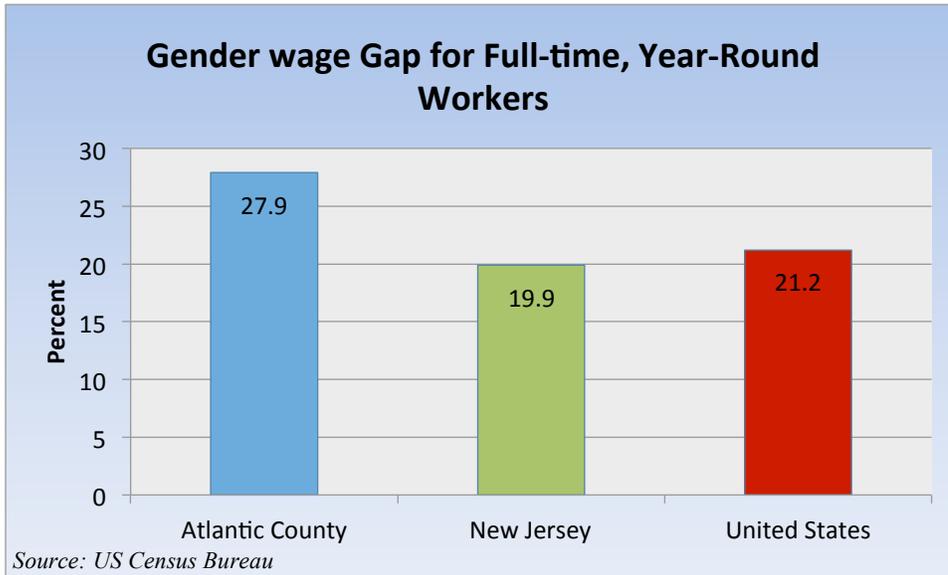


Figure 12 enables the calculation of the gender wage gap.⁸ As Figure 12 demonstrates, the gender wage gap is larger in Atlantic County than in New Jersey or the United States.

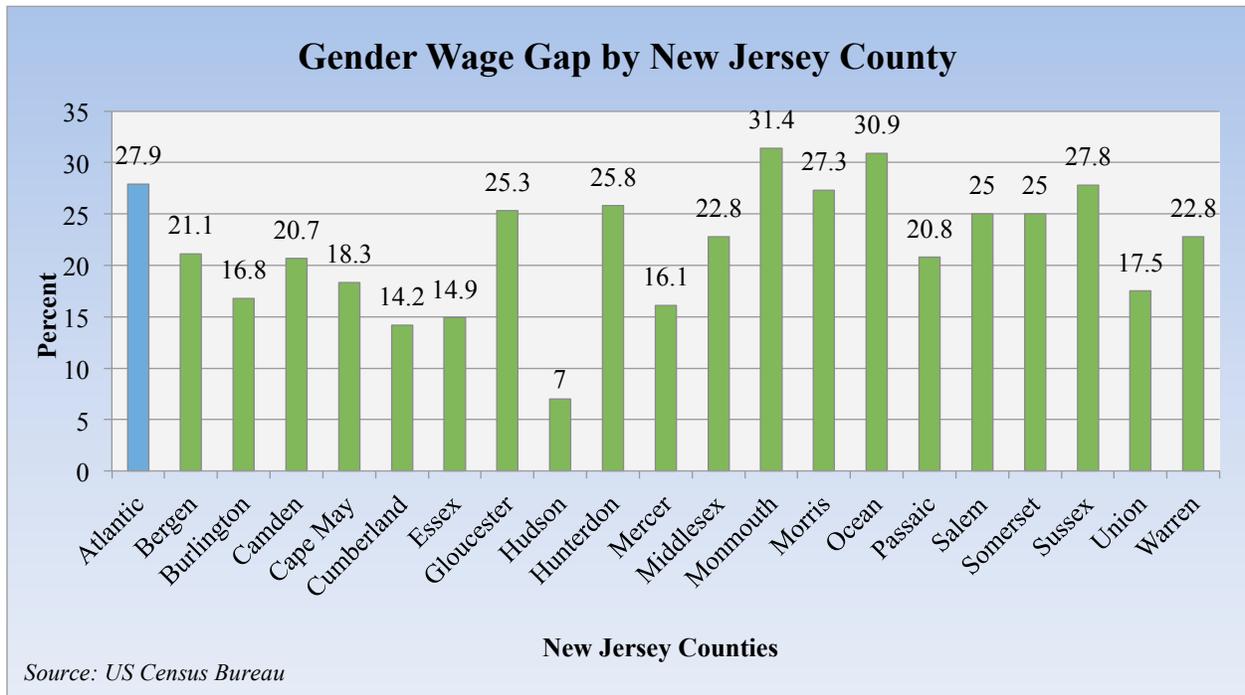
⁸ The gender wage gap is defined as the difference between male and female median wages (full-time, year-round) divided by the male median wages. The gender wage gap is the percentage of male median wages that is equal to the difference between male and female median wages.

Figure 13



Compared to all other counties in New Jersey, Atlantic County has the lowest median wage for women working full-time, year-round (\$36,727) and the third largest wage gap (27.9%).

Figure 14



Section 4: Social and Economic Autonomy

Social and economic autonomy of Atlantic County women can be enhanced by their educational attainment, business ownership, and access to health insurance, reducing the risk of poverty.

The capability to lead the life that one chooses is affected by many factors. Foremost is the access to employment, discussed in the previous section. Social and economic autonomy are also enhanced by educational attainment, owning your own business, and access to health insurance. Poverty rates represent a failure to achieve social and political autonomy, increasing the need of residents for social supports.

Compared to New Jersey and the United States, Atlantic County has a low percentage of residents who have attained a high school education or above. In Atlantic County, a higher percentage of women have high school degrees than men.

Broadly speaking, male-owned businesses significantly outnumber female-owned businesses in Atlantic County. Male-owned businesses also earn considerably more revenue than female-owned businesses, and are more likely to hire employees.

The number of individuals and families falling below the poverty line in Atlantic County is high compared to all other counties in New Jersey and to the nation generally. Female householders with no husband present are particularly at risk.

Generally speaking, Atlantic County has a high percentage of residents who are uninsured (15.4%). Because 55.8% of Atlantic County residents depended on only employee-based health insurance in 2013, the prospect of more casino closings in Atlantic County could adversely affect this already concerning reality.

Approximately one third of Atlantic County residents have a high school degree or equivalent, while almost one quarter have a college degree or higher. Atlantic County women are more likely than men to be high-school educated, but are less likely to have college degrees.

Male-owned businesses dominate female-owned businesses in all 16 types of businesses represented in Atlantic County.

Approximately 18% of Atlantic County residents live below the poverty line. The percentage of Atlantic County's population living below the poverty line is the fourth highest of New Jersey's counties and is also higher than the percentage found across the United States.

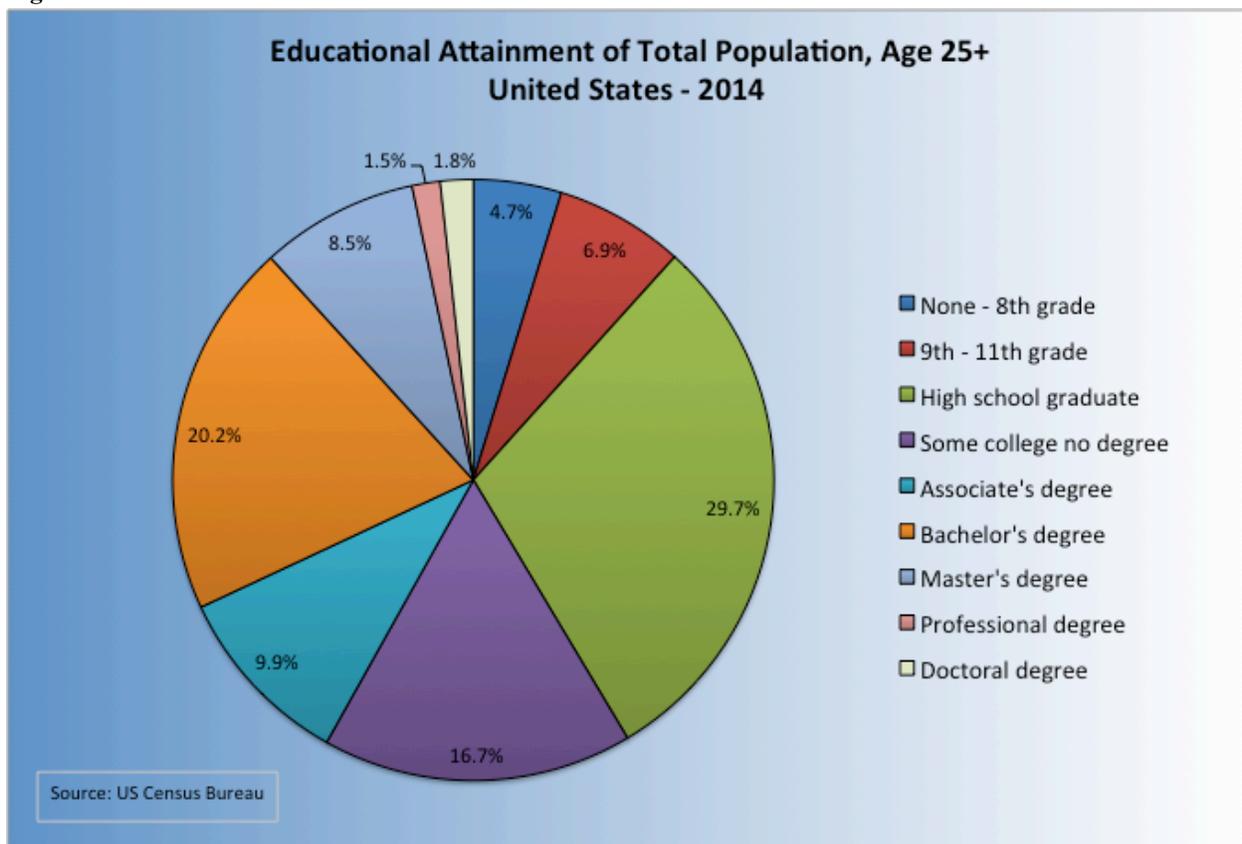
Among all New Jersey counties, Atlantic County has the second highest percentage of "married-couple" families living below the poverty line and also the second highest percentage of "female householder, no husband present" families living below the poverty line.

I. Education Status

This subsection compares the education level of Atlantic County residents, especially women, to neighboring Ocean County, New Jersey, and the United States. The Census data used in this section span the years 2009 to 2014 in order to obtain an accurate estimate.

The first chart below (Figure 1) shows the educational attainment of the total population of the United States age 25 and up. This chart puts into perspective the nation's percentage of those with different levels of education. This gives us a starting point when comparing totals in New Jersey vs. The United States.

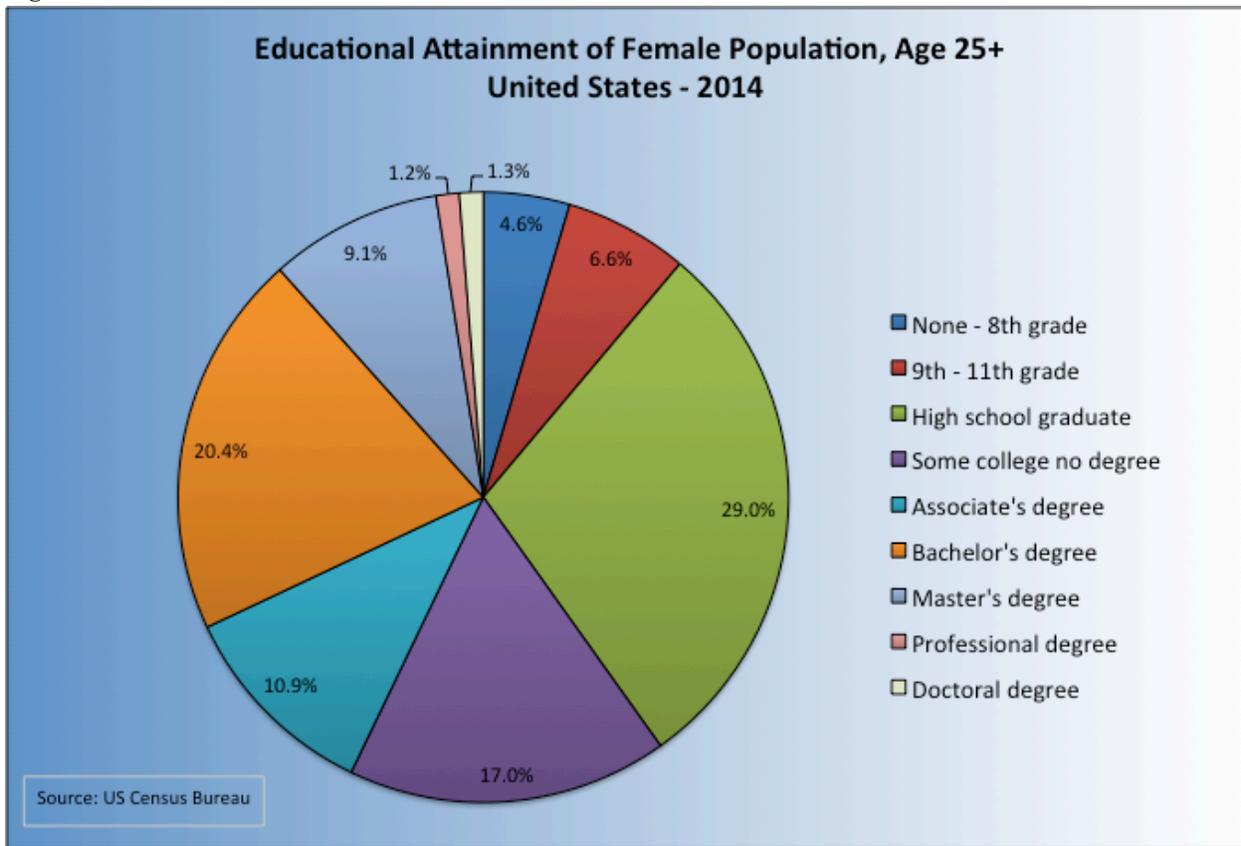
Figure 1



The highest percentage of educational attainment in the United States is the high school graduate, at 29.7%, while the lowest percentage is the Professional degree, at 1.5%.

- Unfortunately, no data this precise is available for New Jersey or any of the counties within New Jersey.

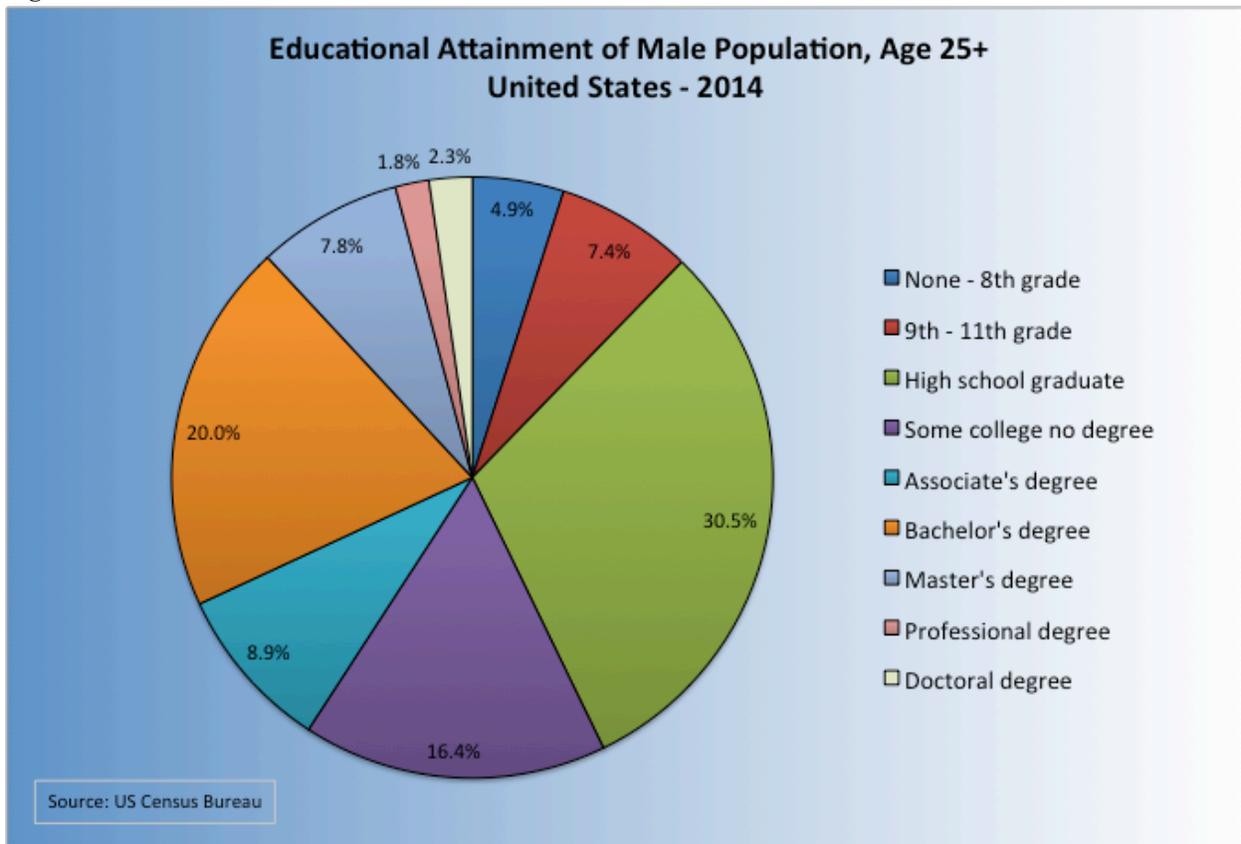
Figure 2



The above chart (Figure 2) is perhaps most helpful in identifying the status of women in the United States. This chart shows the educational attainment of the total population of women in the United States age 25 and up.

- Again, we see that the highest percentage of educational attainment in the United States for women was the high school graduate, at 29%, while the lowest percentage for women was the Professional degree, at 1.2%.

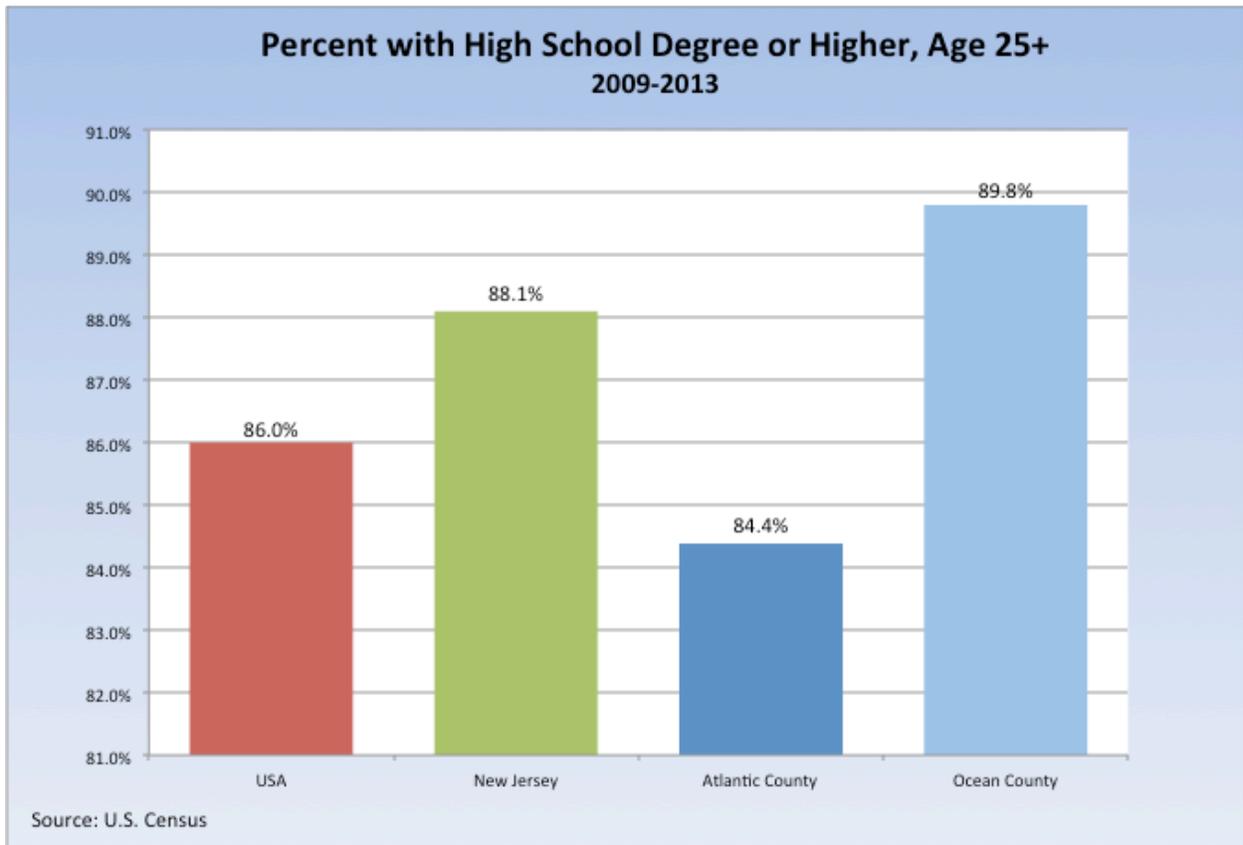
Figure 3



The above chart (Figure 3) is perhaps most helpful in comparing the status of women to men in the United States. This chart shows the educational attainment of the total population of men in the United States age 25 and up.

- Once again, we see that the highest percentage of educational attainment in the United States for men was the high school graduate, at 30.5%, while the lowest percentage for men was the Professional degree, at 1.8%.
- What is interesting in comparison to women is that men have higher percentages in the following categories: None – 8th grade, 9th – 11th grade, High school graduate, Professional degree, and Doctoral degree.
- Women have higher percentages in the following categories: Some college no degree, Associate’s degree, Bachelor’s degree, and Master’s degree.
- In general, it does not appear that one gender has more education than another in the United States.

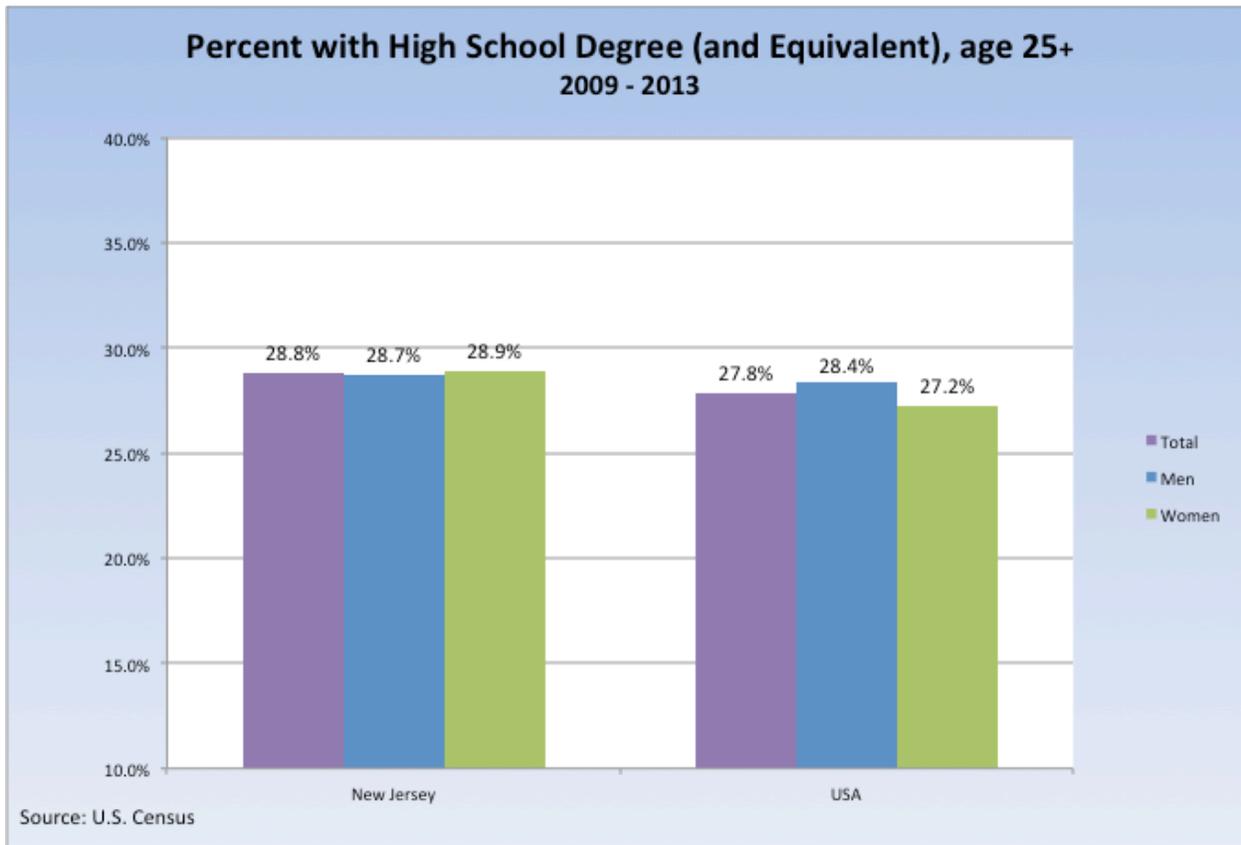
Figure 4



The above graph (Figure 4) shows the percentage of people with a high school degree or higher education, aged 25 or older.

- New Jersey has a highly educated population compared to the United States as a whole.
- Atlantic County has the smallest percentage of those with a high school degree or higher, at 84.4%. Ocean County, in contrast, has a higher percentage.

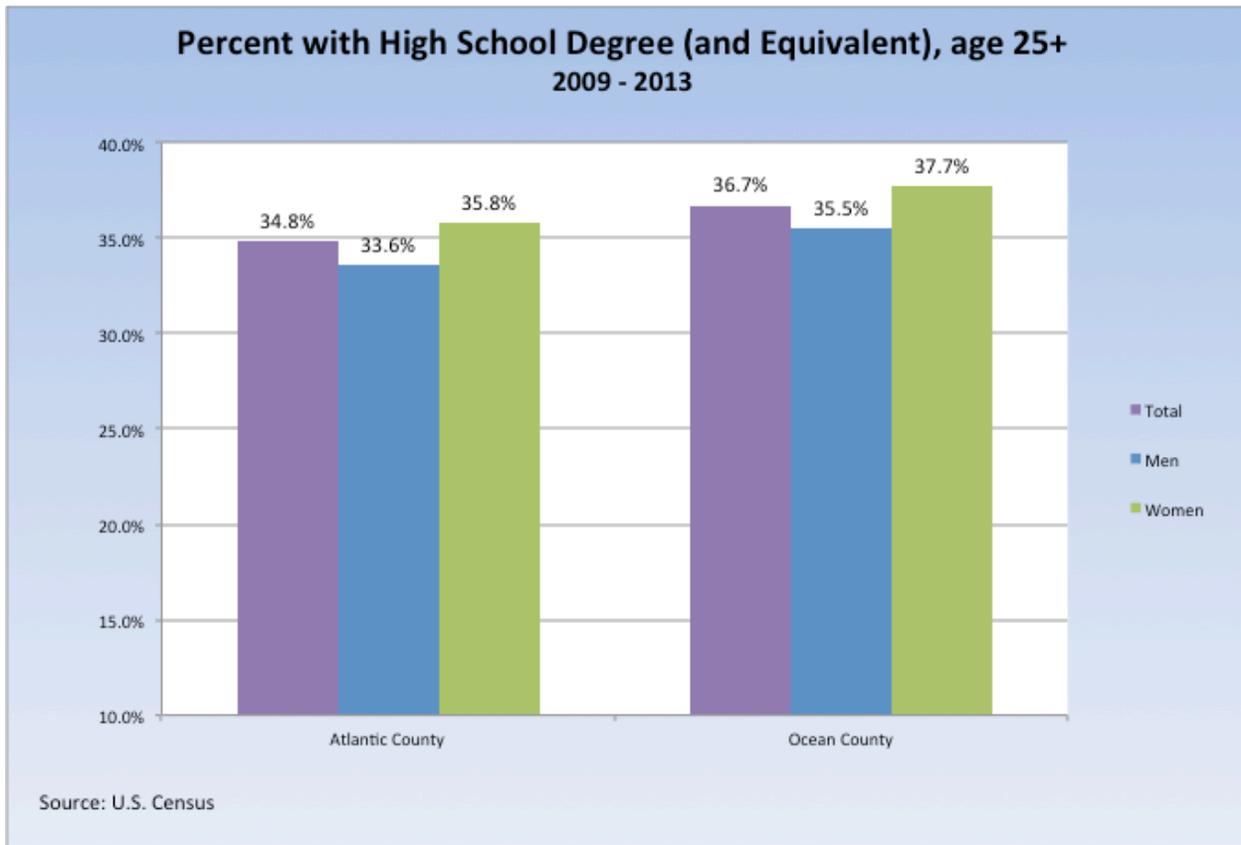
Figure 5



Focusing on men and women aged 25 and older with a high school degree or the equivalent as their highest completed level of education, New Jersey slightly outpaces the US overall.

- The total percentage of men and women in New Jersey with a high school degree or the equivalent as their highest completed level of education, 28.8%, is almost an entire percentage point higher than the total in the US, at 27.8%.
- In the US overall, there is a higher percentage of men with high school degrees or equivalent as their highest completed level of education (28.4%) than women with high school degrees (27.2%). Within New Jersey, however, women with high school degrees or equivalents slightly outpace men with high school degrees or equivalents, at 28.9% versus 28.7%, respectively.

Figure 6



A higher proportion of residents in Atlantic and Ocean Counties aged 25 or older have high school degrees than in the state as a whole.

- Both Atlantic County and Ocean County have a higher percentage of women with high school as their highest degree (35.8% and 37.7%, respectively) than men (33.6% and 35.5%, respectively).

Figure 7

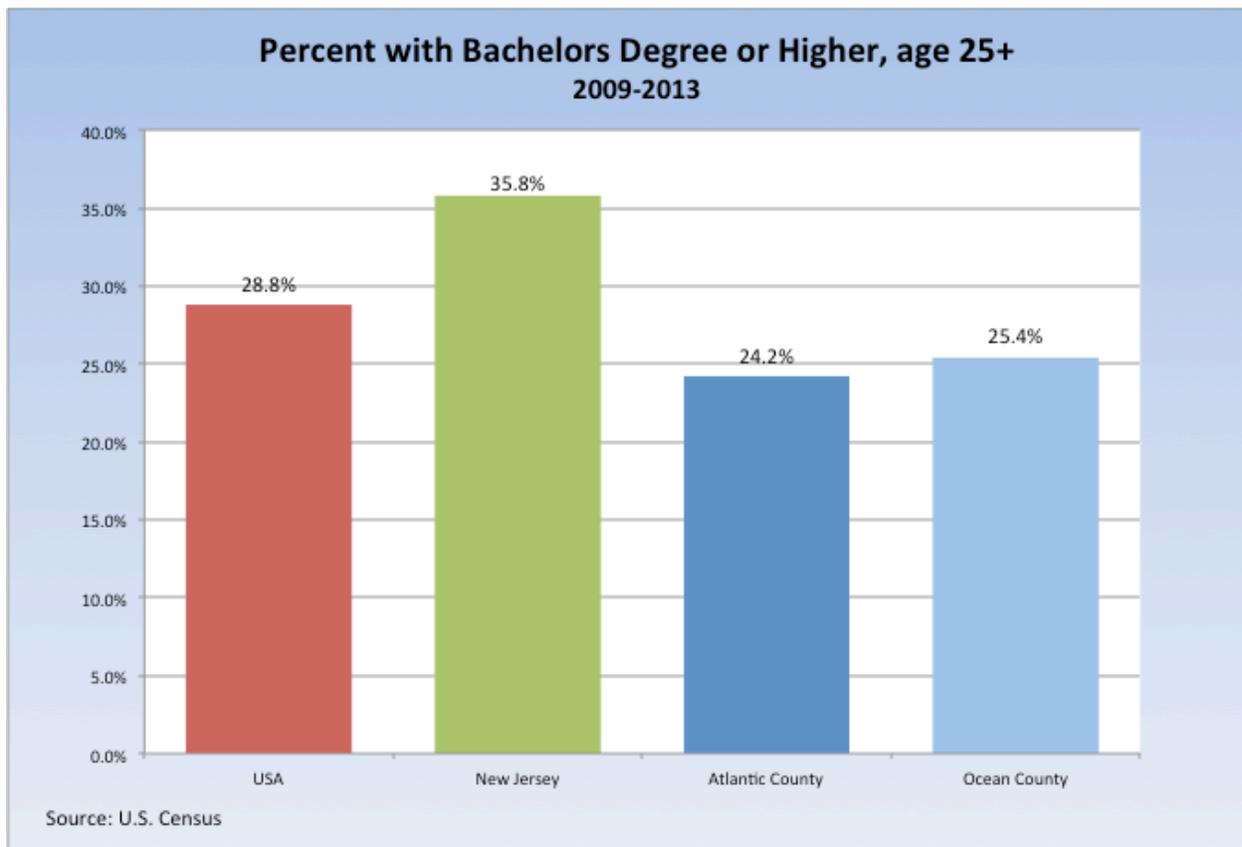
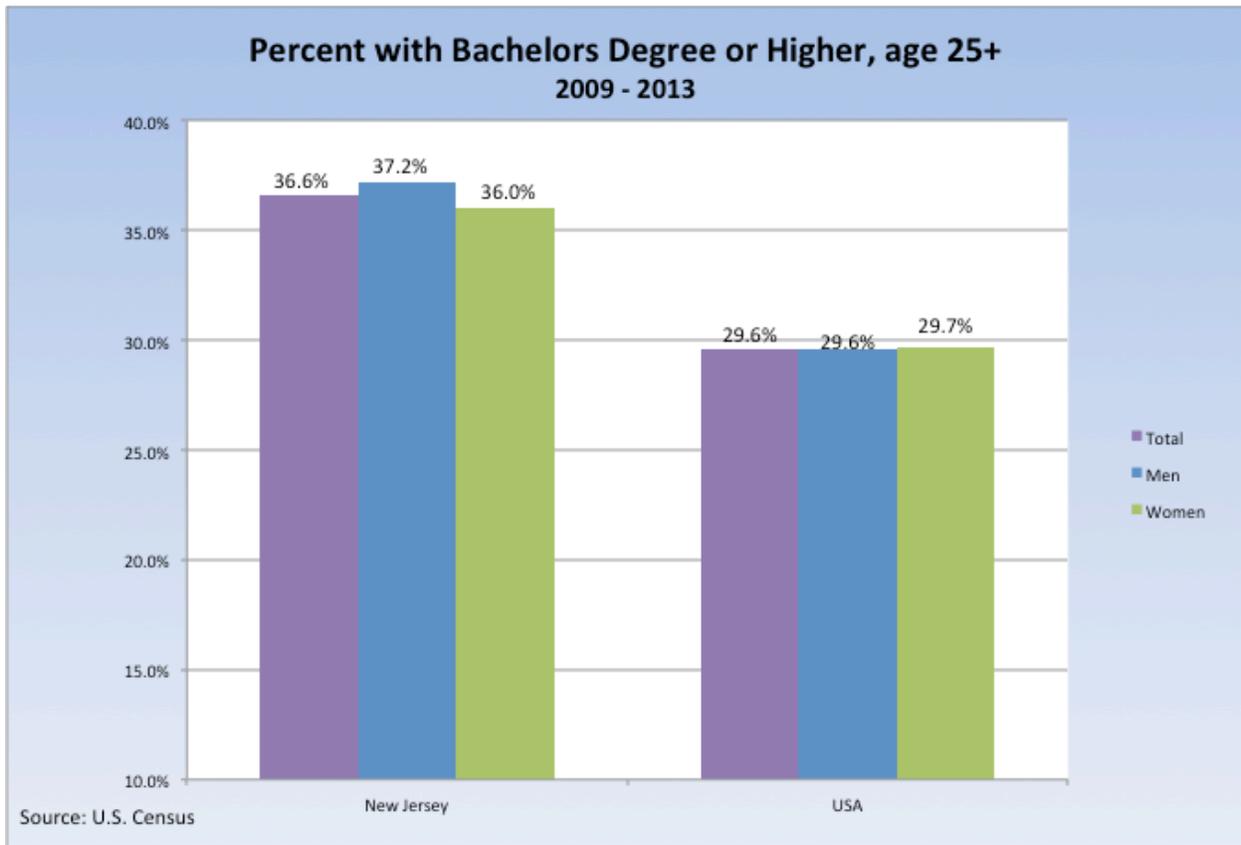


Figure 7 shows the percentage of people aged 25 and older with bachelor's degrees or higher.

- Once again, New Jersey outpaces the U.S. at 35.8%.
- Almost one quarter of Atlantic County residents have a bachelor's degrees or higher, close to the rate in Ocean County, but lower than the state and the U.S.

Figure 8



Following the same trend as with high school degrees, New Jersey has a higher total percentage of residents with bachelor's degrees (36.6%) than the United States (29.6%).

- The educational achievement gap between men and women in the US and New Jersey is quite small.
- In fact, in the US women are slightly more likely than men to have a BA degree or higher. The reverse is true in New Jersey.

Figure 9

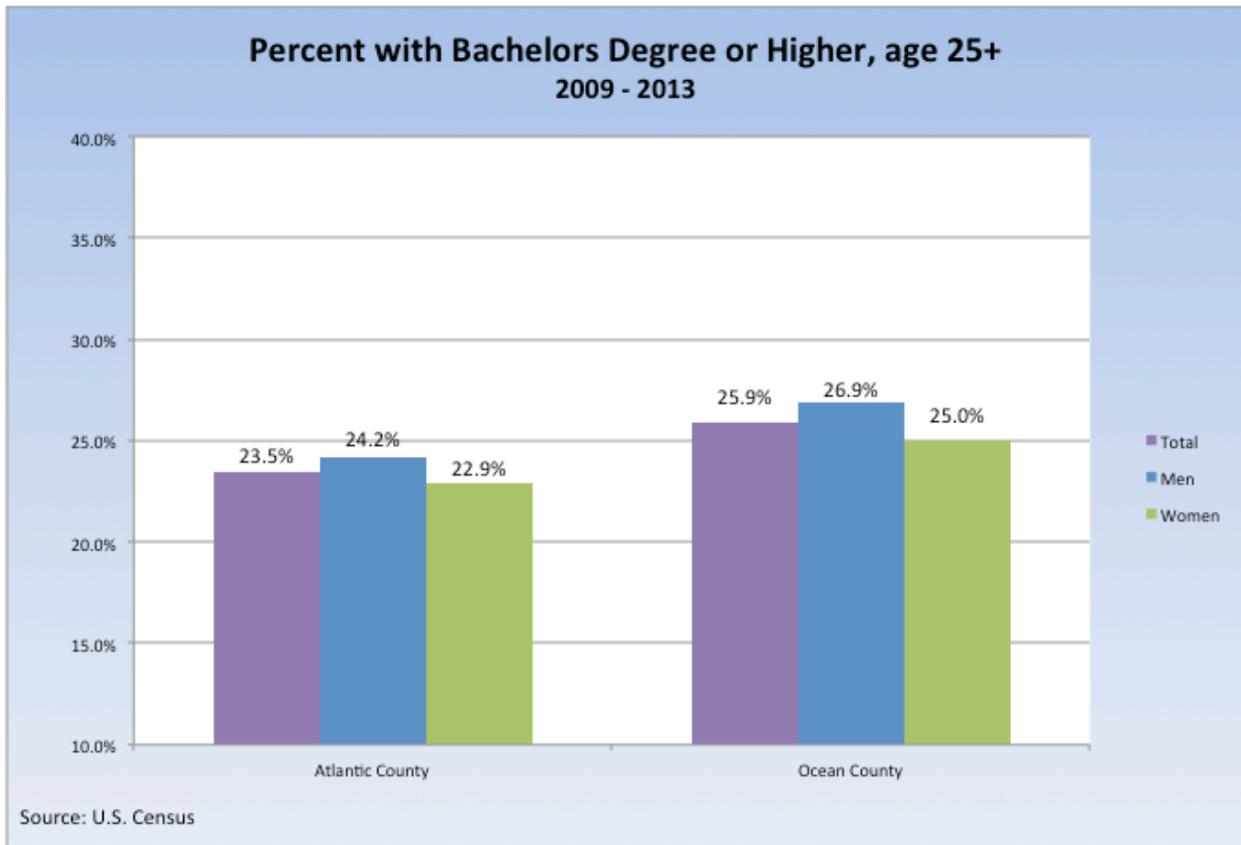
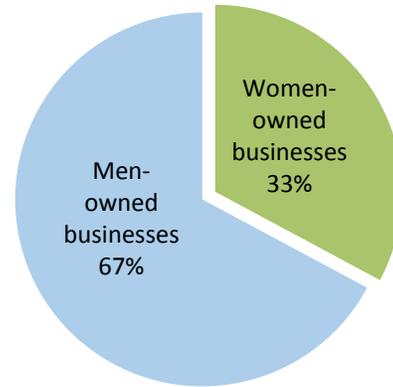


Figure 9 depicts a slightly larger educational attainment gap between men and women in Atlantic and Ocean Counties compared with the state as a whole. Women in both counties are less likely to have bachelor's degrees.

II. Business Ownership⁹

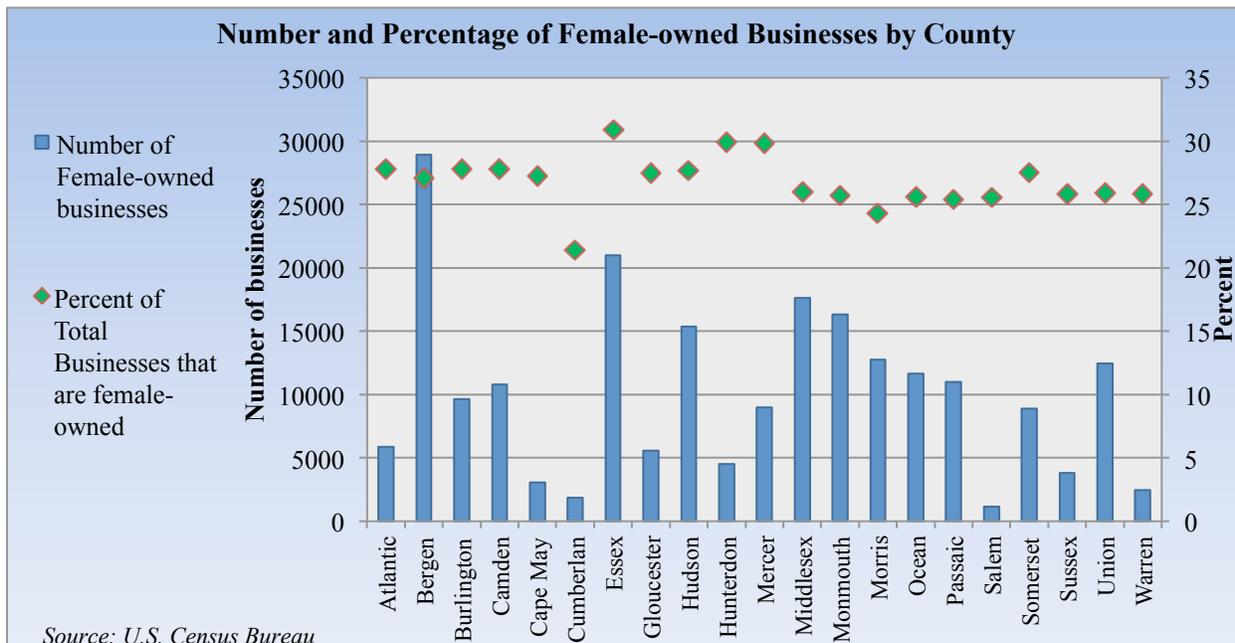
As of 2007, there were 21,027 businesses in Atlantic County, the ownership of which was divided by gender as shown in Figure 10. Women owned 5,847 businesses in Atlantic County in comparison with 11,959 businesses owned by men. The number of 2007 businesses owned by women represents an increase of approximately 30.6% from 2002 when the number of female-owned businesses was 4,476. When we compare Atlantic County to all other counties in New Jersey, the absolute number of female-owned businesses is low. In percentage terms, however, it is comparable to other New Jersey counties

Figure 10



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 11



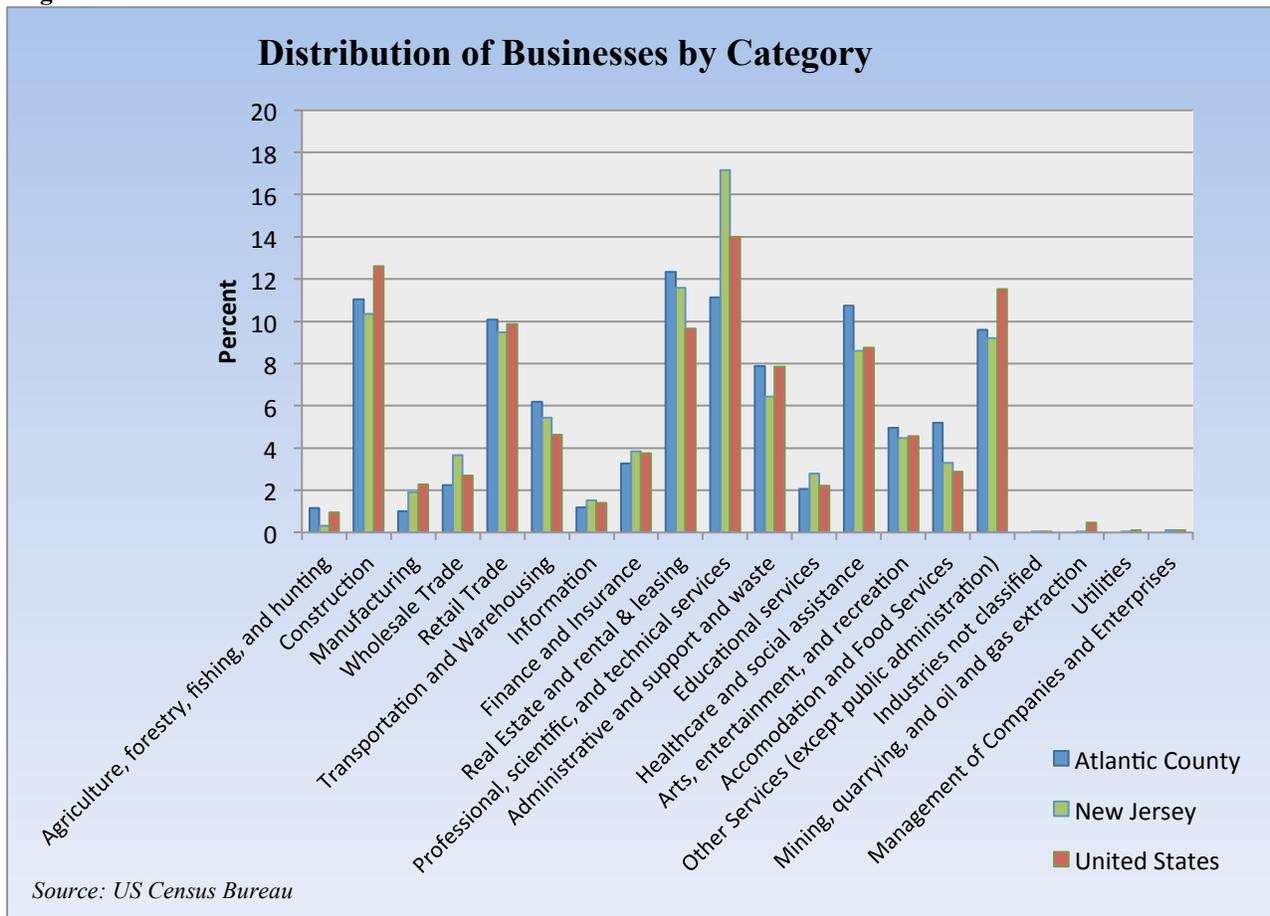
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

⁹ Our most reliable and thorough data on the number of female business owners in Atlantic County comes from the United States Census Bureau's Survey of Business Owners which is conducted every five years. The most recent survey for which data is available is from 2007. Considering that this information is based on pre-recession economic conditions, conclusions made from this dataset may present a picture that is notably different from the current landscape. The Census Bureau tells us that the 2012 data collection period concluded in November 2014 and that data on the number of women-owned business is tentatively scheduled to be released in June 2015. It is therefore advised that the picture created herein be reconsidered once this more current data is released.

Ownership by Gender and Category of Business

The Census Bureau divides business types into twenty categories, some of which are highly specific (e.g. “Transportation and Warehousing”) and others that are lumped into a somewhat ambiguous classification (e.g. “Other Services [except public administration]). Figure 12 shows a comparison among Atlantic County, New Jersey, and the United States for each business category.

Figure 12

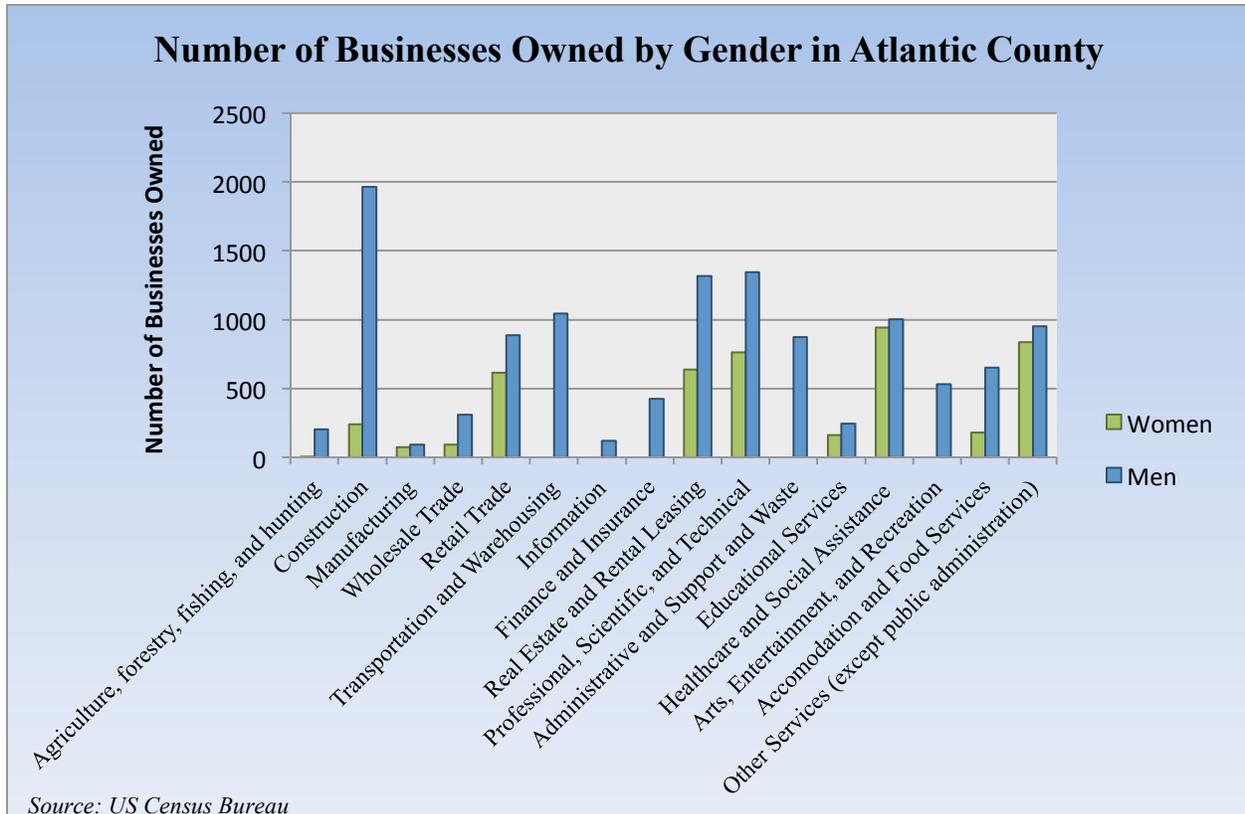


It should be noted that the US Census does not recognize Atlantic County as having businesses in the following categories: Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction; Utilities; Management of companies and enterprises; and Industries not classified.

- Atlantic County has notably higher percentages of businesses in the “Real Estate and Rental & Leasing,” “Healthcare and Social Assistance,” and “Accommodation and Food Services” categories.

Women and men are more equally represented as business owners in some industries than others. Figure 10 gives us a detailed picture of the number of businesses owned by women in Atlantic County by type of business.

Figure 13

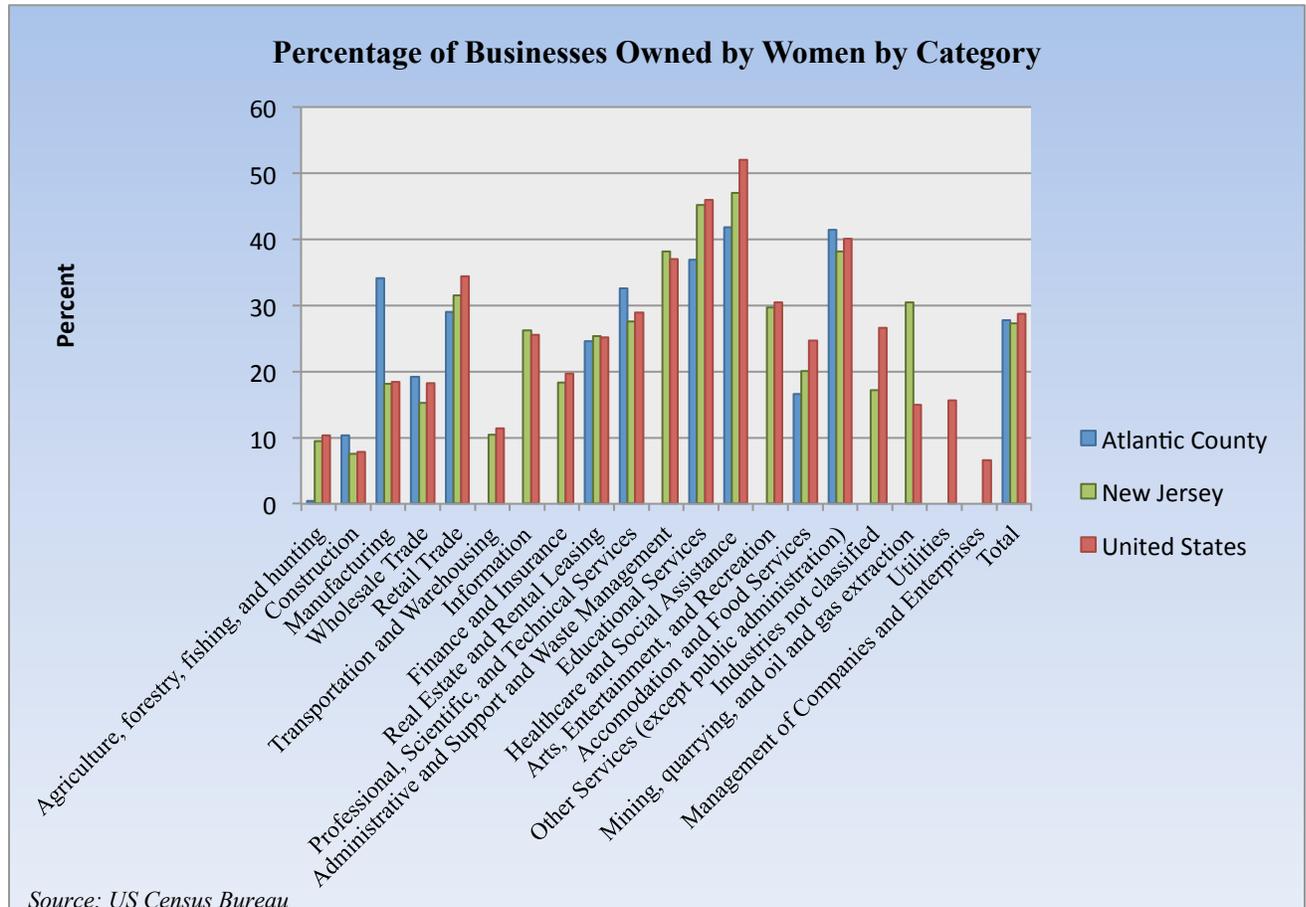


- If a woman owns a business in Atlantic County, it is most likely in the category of “Healthcare and Social Assistance.”
- In contrast, men-owned businesses dominate women-owned businesses in all 16 industries represented in Atlantic County. The gap is narrowest in “Manufacturing, Healthcare and Social Assistance,” “Educational Services,” and “Other Services (except public administration).”¹⁰

¹⁰ The Census gives the following description of “Other Services (except public administration)”: The Other Services (except Public Administration) sector comprises establishments engaged in providing services not specifically provided for elsewhere in the classification system. Establishments in this sector are primarily engaged in activities, such as equipment and machinery repairing, promoting or administering religious activities, grantmaking, advocacy, and providing drycleaning and laundry services, personal care services, death care services, pet care services, photofinishing services, temporary parking services, and dating services. Private households that engage in employing workers on or about the premises in activities primarily concerned with the operation of the household are included in this sector. Excluded from this sector are establishments primarily engaged in retailing new equipment and also performing repairs and general maintenance on equipment. Such establishments are classified in Sector 44-45, Retail Trade.

Figure 14 depicts the percent of businesses owned by women by industry, comparing women business owners' representation in Atlantic County, New Jersey, and the United States.

Figure 14

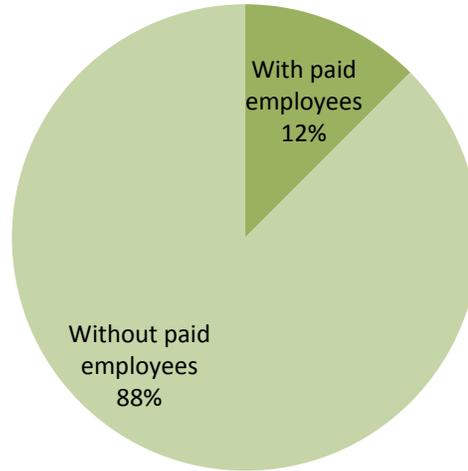


- In most categories, the representation of women-owned businesses in Atlantic County is comparable with New Jersey and the United States as a whole.
- Atlantic County has a relatively large percent of women-owned businesses in Construction; Manufacturing; Wholesale Trade; Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services; and Other Services (except public administration).
- The percent of women-owned businesses in Atlantic County is lower than that found in New Jersey and the United States in twelve other categories.

Size of Women-owned Businesses

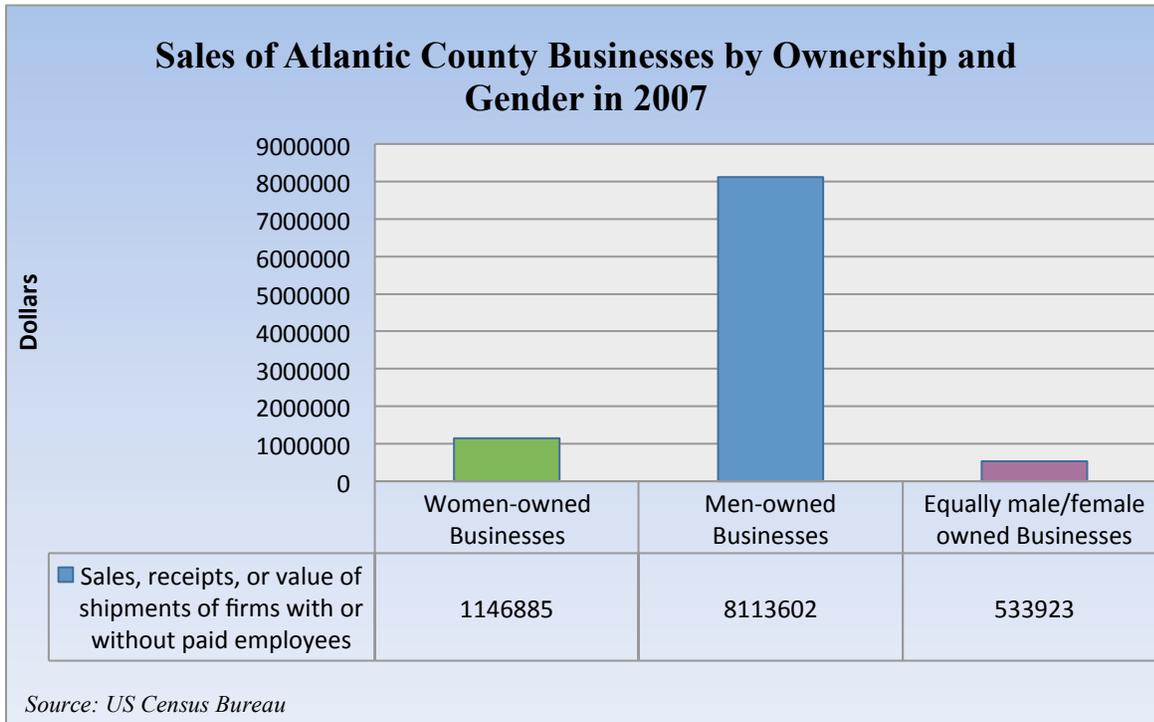
In Atlantic County, we find that businesses owned by women are much less likely to have paid employees and that they earn much less revenue than businesses owned by men.

Figure 15
Women-owned Businesses in Atlantic County



Source: US Census Bureau

Figure 16



Since 2002, the number of female-owned businesses with paid employees has decreased by about 6.4% from 892 to 835 businesses. But, female-owned businesses are earning slightly more money, even after we adjust for inflation: in 2002 sales, receipts, or value of shipments of firms with or without paid employees for female-owned businesses was \$893,615 (\$1,029,927.3 in 2007 dollars)

III. Health Insurance Coverage

Access to health insurance, and consequently health care, is critical for maintaining economic autonomy and staying out of poverty. Information on health insurance coverage in Atlantic County (AC) is compared with the United States (US), New Jersey (NJ), Burlington County (BC), Cape May County (CMC), and Ocean County (OC).

Table 1

Population	AC	BC	CMC	OC	NJ	US
Total Civilian						
Non-institutionalized	272,662	436,497	94,002	577,707	8,791,652	311,158,104
Total Uninsured	42,040	29,744	8,332	54,936	1,160,294	45,180,675
Total Percentage Uninsured	15.4%	6.8%	8.9%	9.5%	13.2%	14.5%

Source: The United States Census Bureau

Atlantic County has the *highest* percentage of uninsured (15.4%) of not only local counties (Burlington – 6.8%, Cape May – 8.9%, and Ocean – 9.5%), but also has a higher percentage of uninsured than New Jersey (13.2%) *and* the United States (14.5%) as a whole.

- The percentage of uninsured residents in Atlantic County is .9 percentage points higher than the rate in United States.
- Other New Jersey Counties have substantially lower uninsured rates than the national average.

These disparities may increase in the near future due to the recent closings of four major Atlantic City casinos in 2014. According to the United States Census Bureau, in 2013, 55.8% of Atlantic County residents depended on only employee-based health insurance. Many residents may have lost their health insurance, which will increase the percentage of uninsured Atlantic County residents. This is an issue facing both men and women in Atlantic County, as shown in Tables 2 and 3.

Table 2

Population	AC	BC	CMC	OC	NJ	US
Total Female Population	140,761	226,109	49,218	300,866	4,519,615	159,113,423
Total Female Uninsured	19,820	13,985	3,830	25,934	543,647	21,086,382
% of Females Uninsured	14.1%	6.2%	7.8%	8.6%	12.0%	13.3%

Source: The United States Census Bureau

Table 3

Population	AC	BC	CMC	OC	NJ	US
Total Male Population	131,901	210,388	44,784	276,841	4,272,037	152,044,681
Total Male Uninsured	22,220	15,759	4,502	29,002	616,647	24,094,293
% of Males Uninsured	16.8%	7.5%	10.1%	10.5%	14.4%	15.8%

Source: The United States Census Bureau

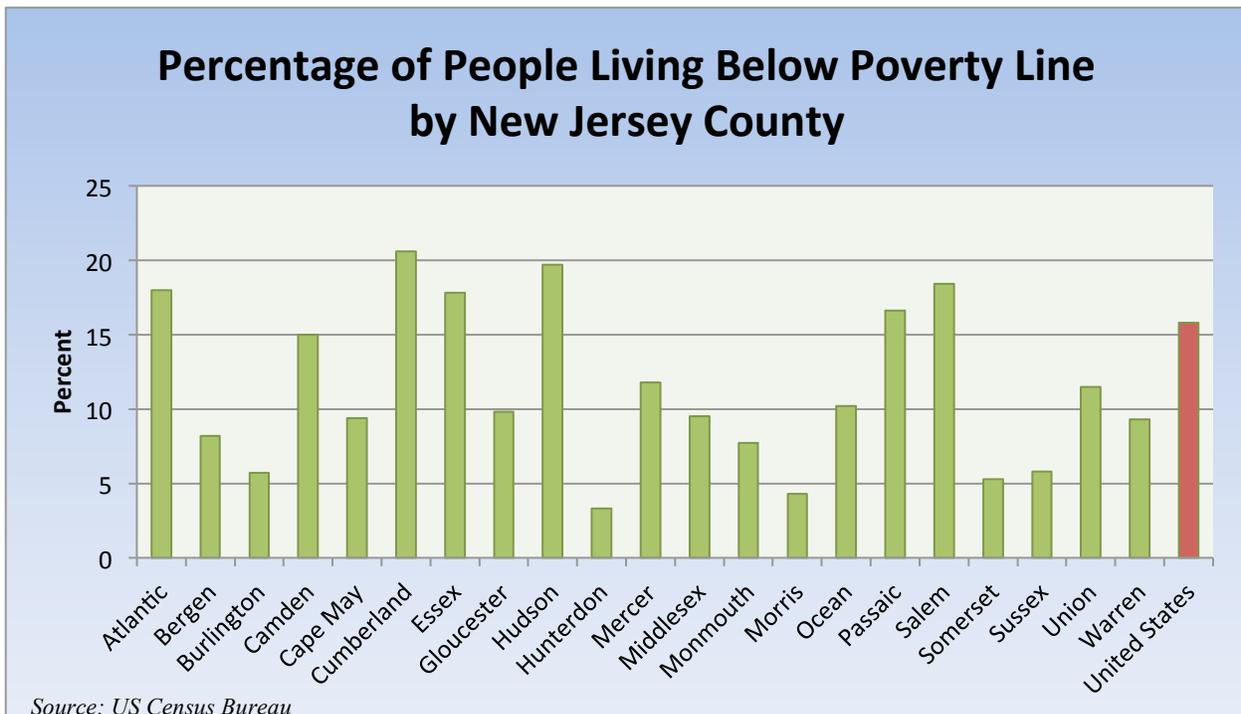
- A smaller percentage of Atlantic County women are uninsured than men, a 2.7 percentage point difference.

IV. Poverty Among Atlantic County Residents

The most recent Census data tells us that approximately 18 percent of Atlantic County residents live below the poverty line (48,716 people out of the total population of 270,136).

- The percentage of Atlantic County’s population living below the poverty line is the fourth highest of New Jersey’s counties and is also higher than the percentage found in the United States (15.8%).

Figure 17



Source: US Census Bureau

When we take a look at trends over time, the percentage of the population below the poverty line is much more volatile in Atlantic County than it is in either New Jersey or the United States. We also see that this percentage has increased more rapidly in Atlantic County after the technical end of the Great Recession in 2009 than it has in either New Jersey or the United States.

Figure 18

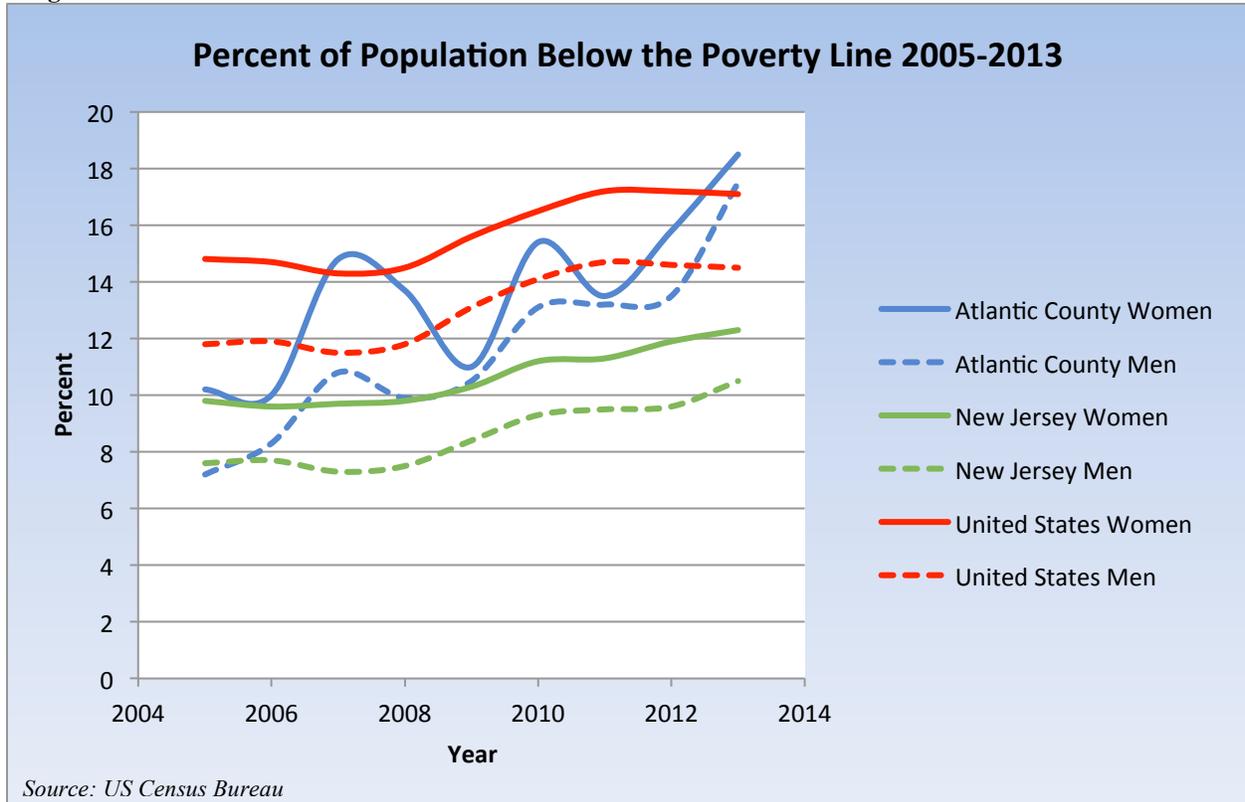
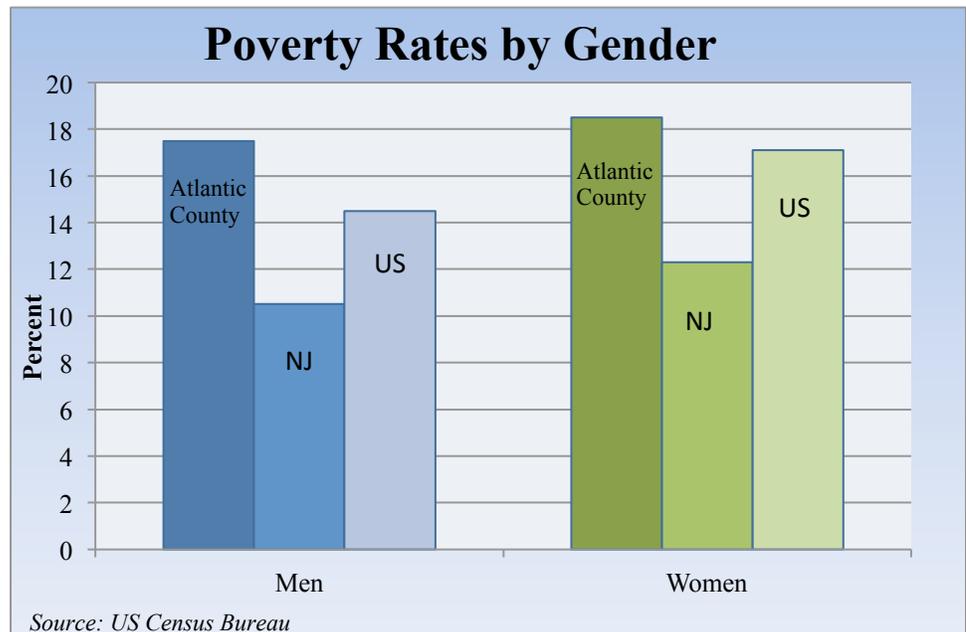


Figure 19

The poverty rate in Atlantic County is higher for women and men than it is in New Jersey or the United States. Atlantic County’s poverty rate for women is 6.2 and 1.4 percentage points higher than the rates found in New Jersey and the United States, respectively.



Among New Jersey Counties, Atlantic County has the third highest percentage of women falling below the poverty line.

Figure 20

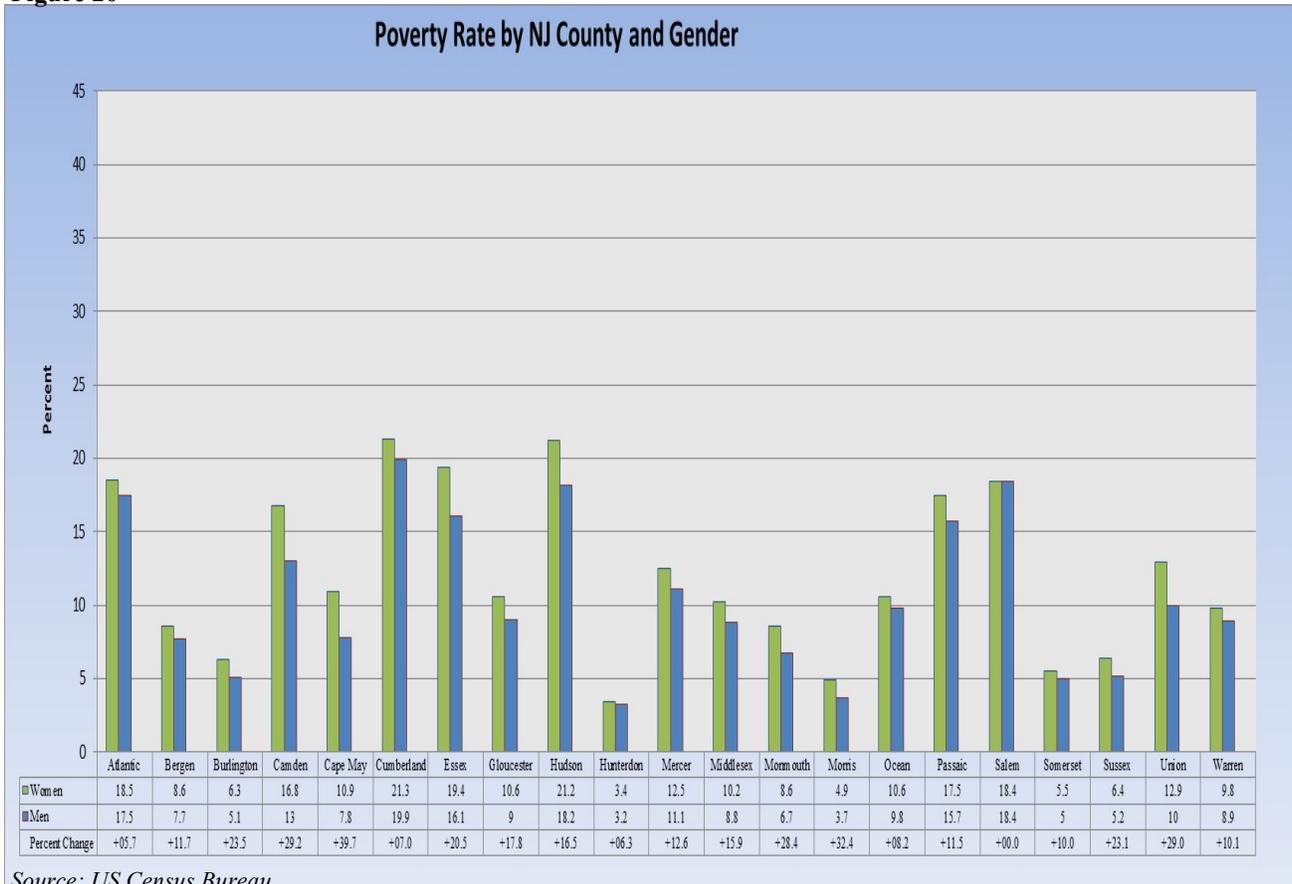
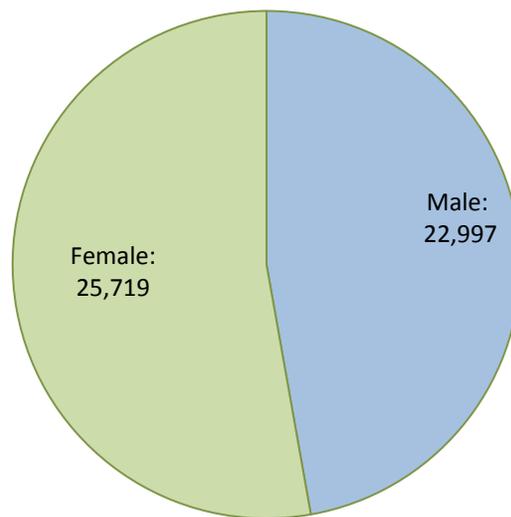


Figure 21 **Gender**

When we start to look at the characteristics of the 48,716 individuals living below the poverty line in Atlantic County, we see the following¹¹:

A slight majority are women.



¹¹ Source of all data found in figures 16-19 is the United States Census Bureau

Figure 22

Employment Status

The largest proportion of Atlantic County residents experiencing poverty are in the labor force. Of these, there are more employed than unemployed men and women living below the poverty line.

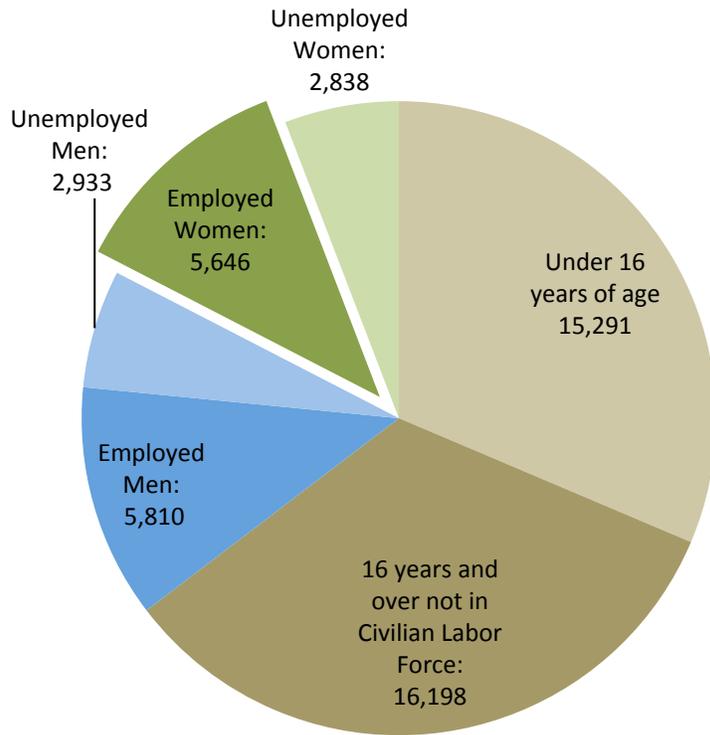


Figure 23

Race

The largest proportion of Atlantic County's poor are white.

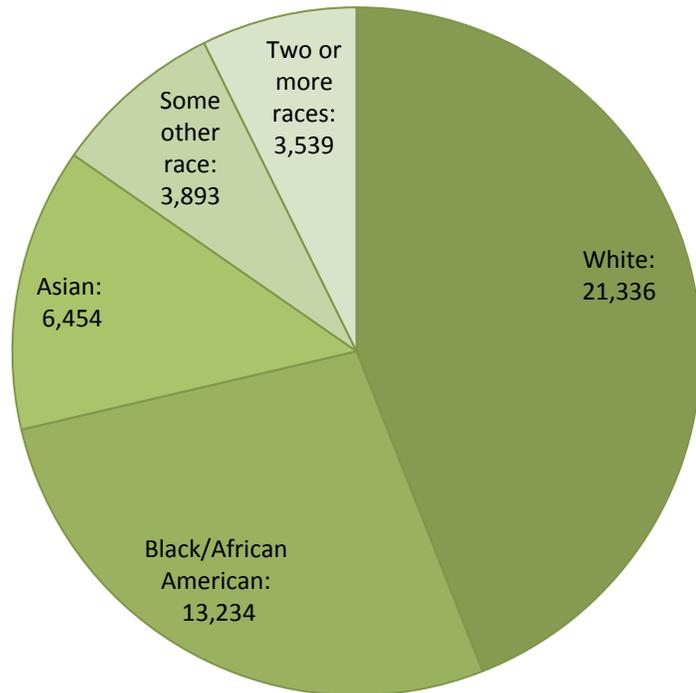
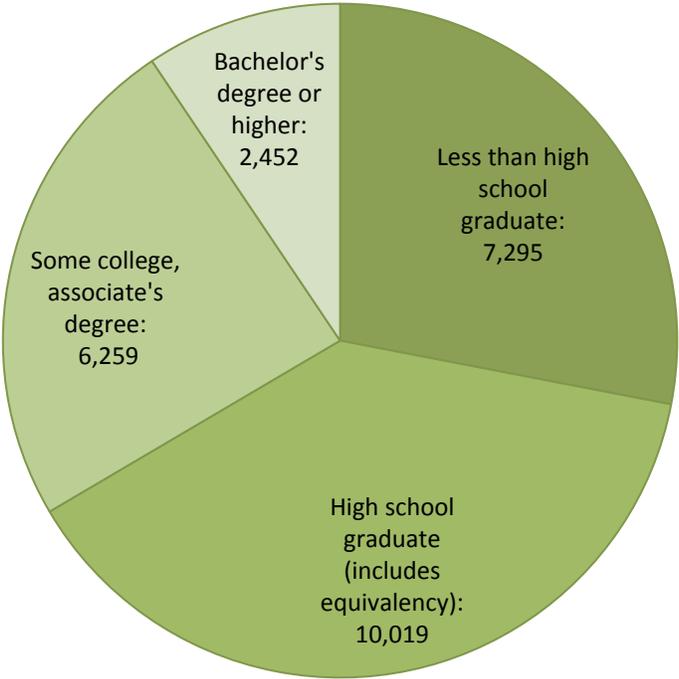


Figure 24

Educational Attainment

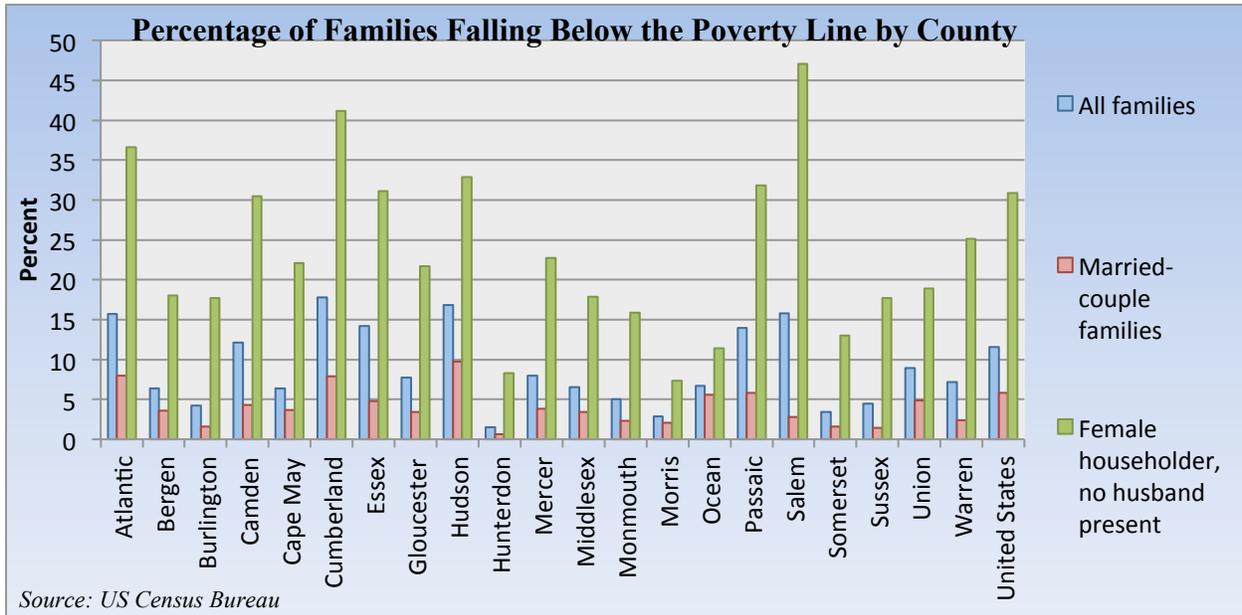
Most of Atlantic County's poor are high school graduates.



Families in Poverty

According to the US Census, there are 69,797 families¹² living in Atlantic County, 10,958 of which are living below the poverty level.

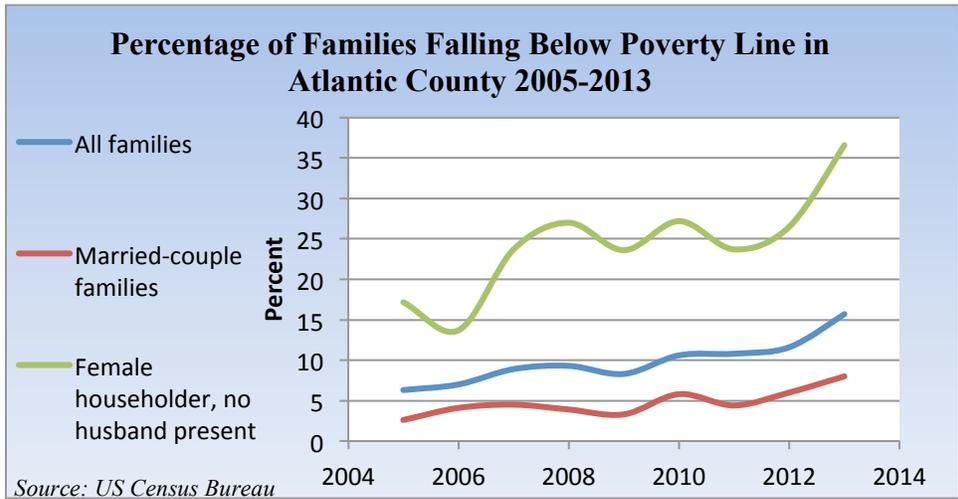
Figure 25



- As shown in Figure 25, 15.7% of Atlantic County families live below the poverty level.
- Atlantic County’s family poverty rate is the fourth highest of all of New Jersey’s counties, surpassed by Cumberland, Hudson, and Salem Counties, respectively.
- Atlantic County surpasses the nation’s poverty rate by 4.1 percentage points.
- Figure 25 shows that, in comparison to all of New Jersey’s counties, Atlantic County has the second highest percentage of “married-couple” families living below the poverty line.
- Atlantic County also has the second highest percentage of “female householder, no husband present” families living below the poverty line.

¹² The Census Bureau defines a family as “2 or more people (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption residing in the same housing unit.”

Figure 26



- In all three family categories, the percentage falling below the poverty line has been rising steadily since 2005, but none so dramatically as those falling under the “female householder, no husband present” category.

When we attempt to take a look at the characteristics of these 10,958 families living below the poverty line in Atlantic County, we find the following:¹³

Figure 27

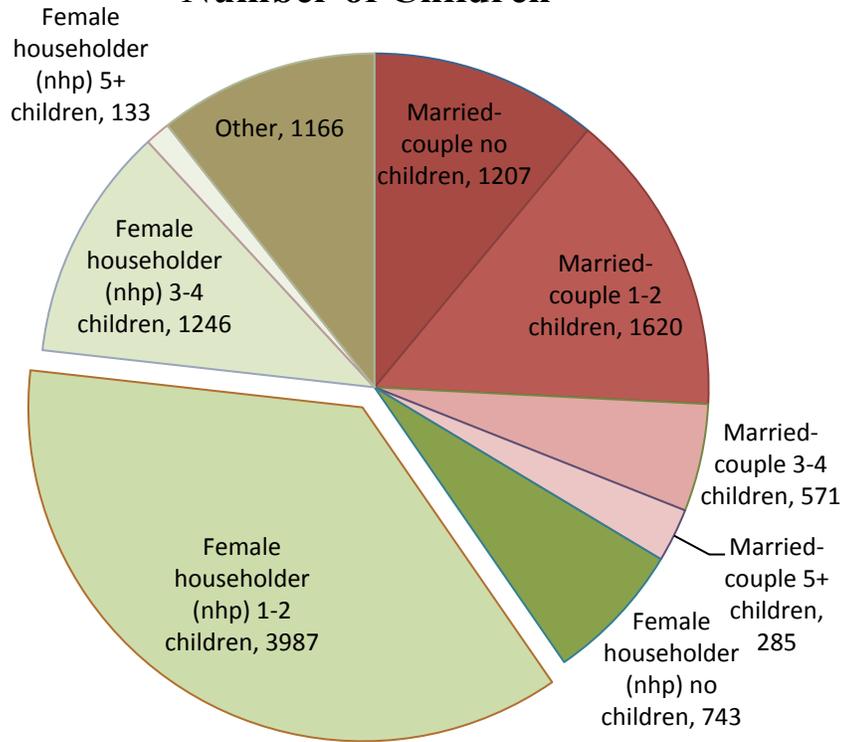
Living Arrangements

Half of poor families are those with a female householder, no husband present.



¹³ Source of all data found in figures 22-27 is the United States Census Bureau.

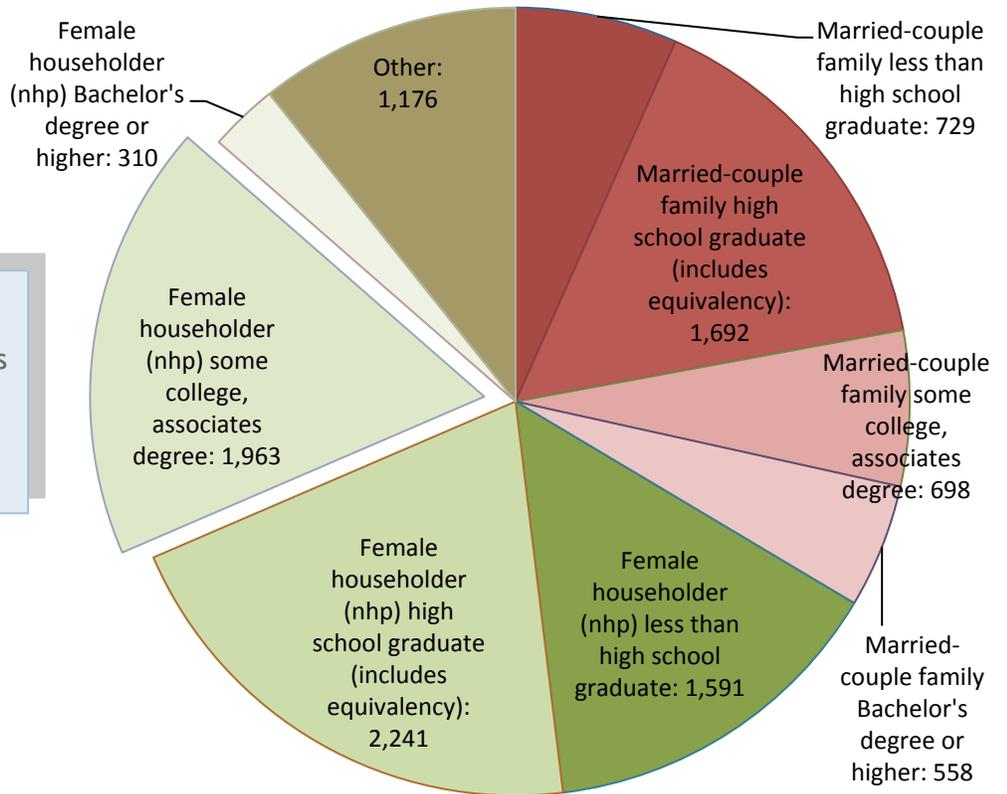
Figure 28 **Number of Children**



The largest proportion are female householders (no husband present) with 1-2 children.

Figure 29

Educational Attainment of Householder



The largest proportion are female householders (no husband present) who have at least some college education.

Figure 30

Number of Workers

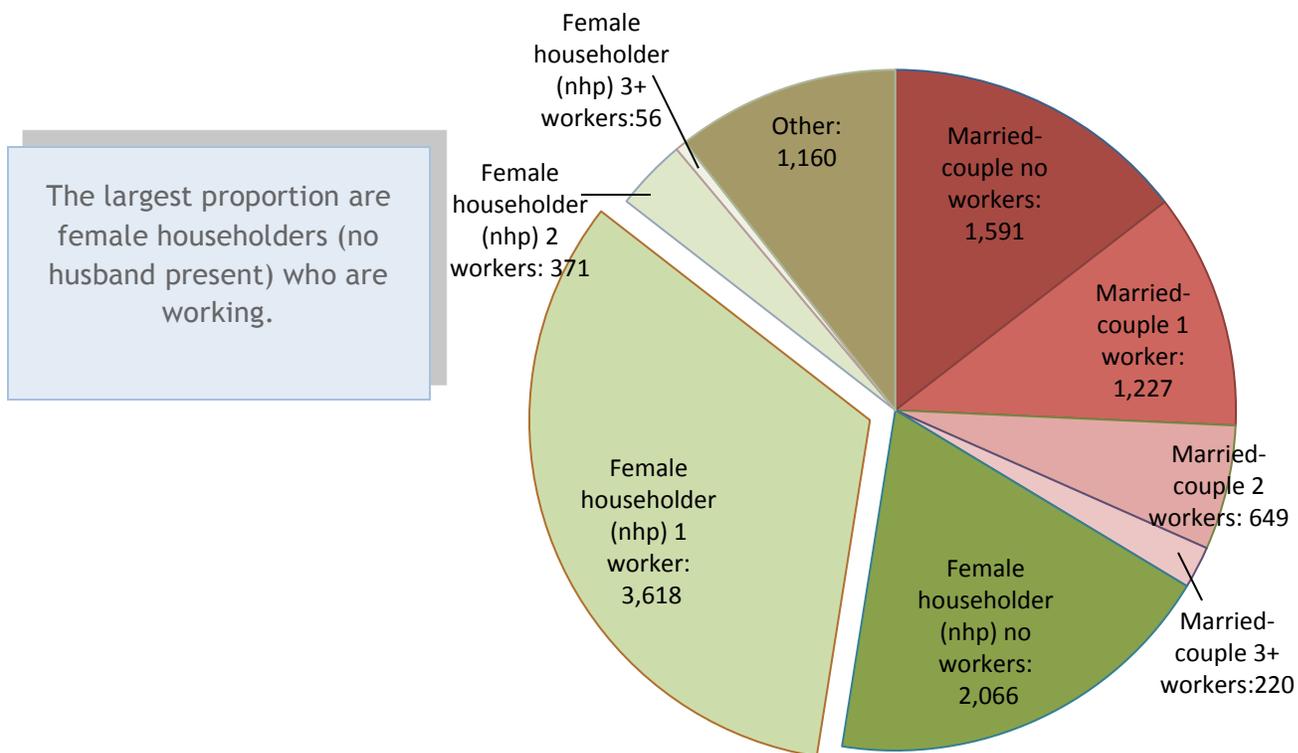
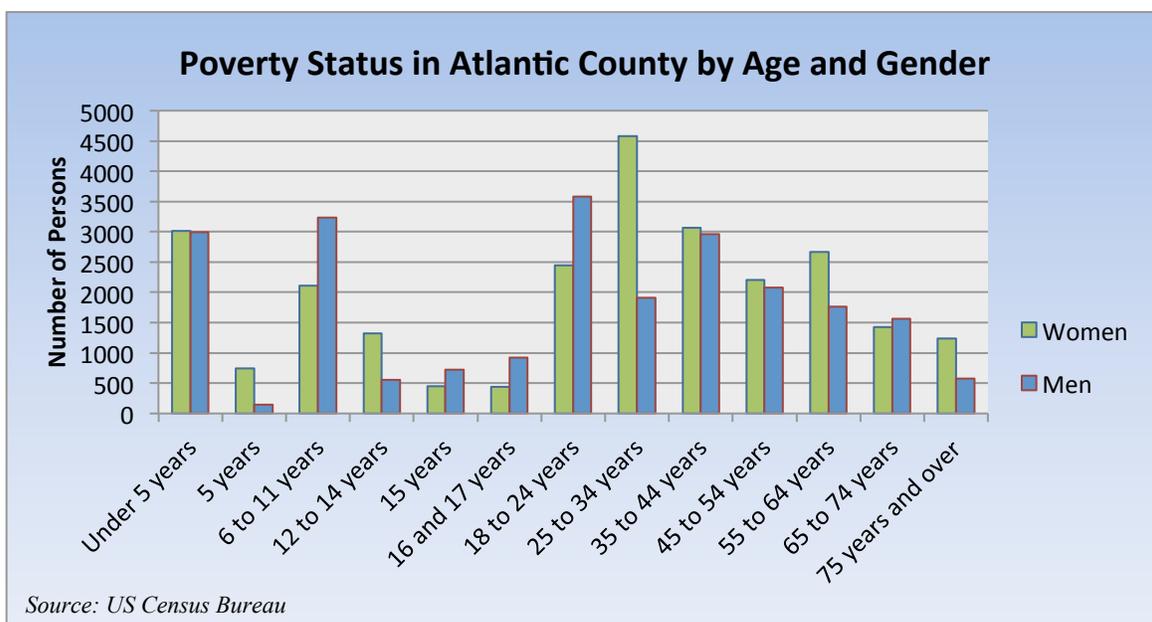


Figure 31

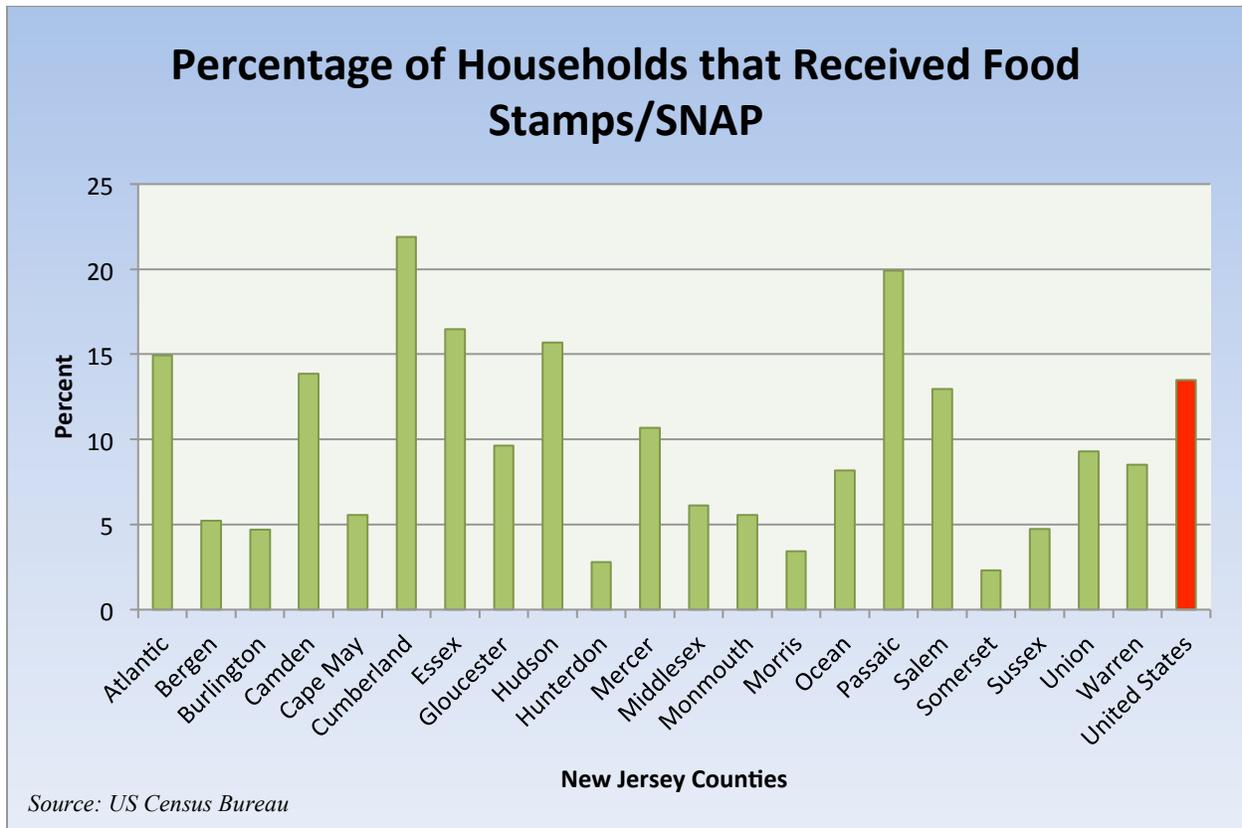


III. Food Stamps/SNAP

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 15,197 households in Atlantic county (14.94%) have received food stamps/SNAP in the past 12 months. In Atlantic County, 17.62% of families are receiving the same.¹⁴

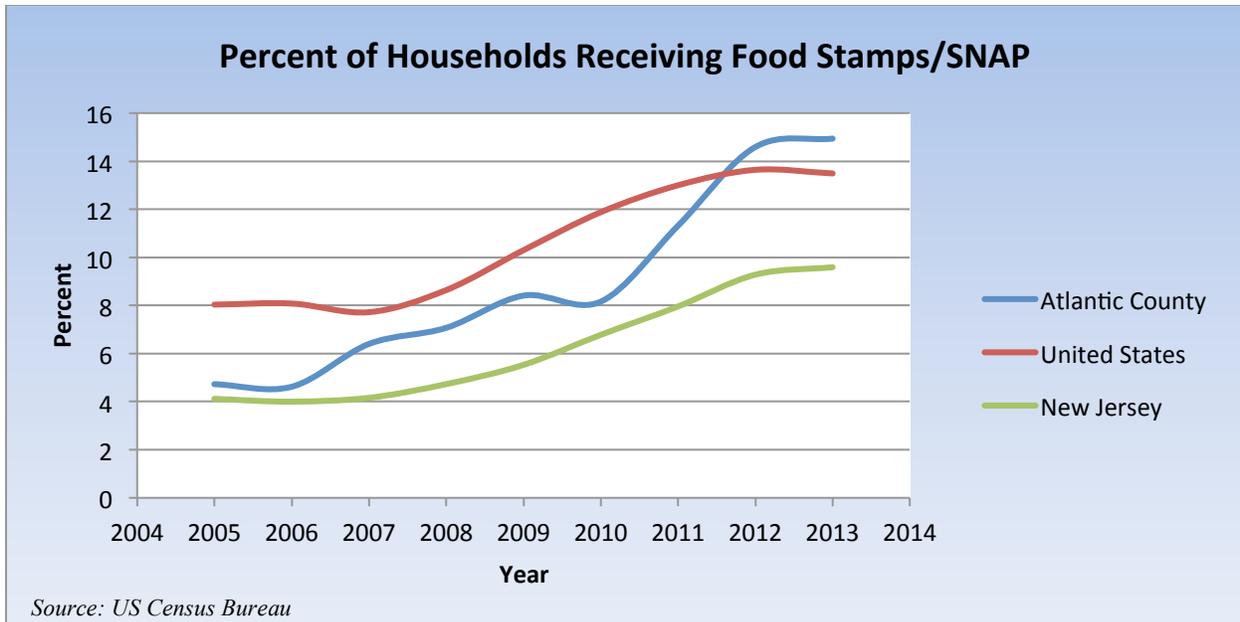
- Almost half (48.2%) of Atlantic County families that are receiving food stamps/SNAP have at least one family member working within the past 12 months, and 29.2% have two or more workers in the same time period.
- The percentage of households that receive food stamps/SNAP in Atlantic County is higher than the national level, and is the fifth highest percentage of all New Jersey counties.

Figure 32



¹⁴ The Census Bureau defines the difference between households and families as the following: “A family consists of two or more people (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption residing in the same housing unit. A household consists of all people who occupy a housing unit regardless of relationship. A household may consist of a person living alone or multiple unrelated individuals or families living together.”

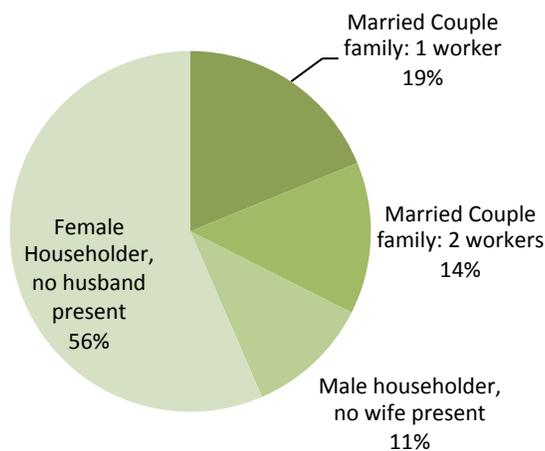
Figure 33



- Since 2005, the percentage of households receiving food stamps/SNAP has generally been increasing and in 2012 that percentage surpassed the national percentage for the first time within this time period.

Figure 34

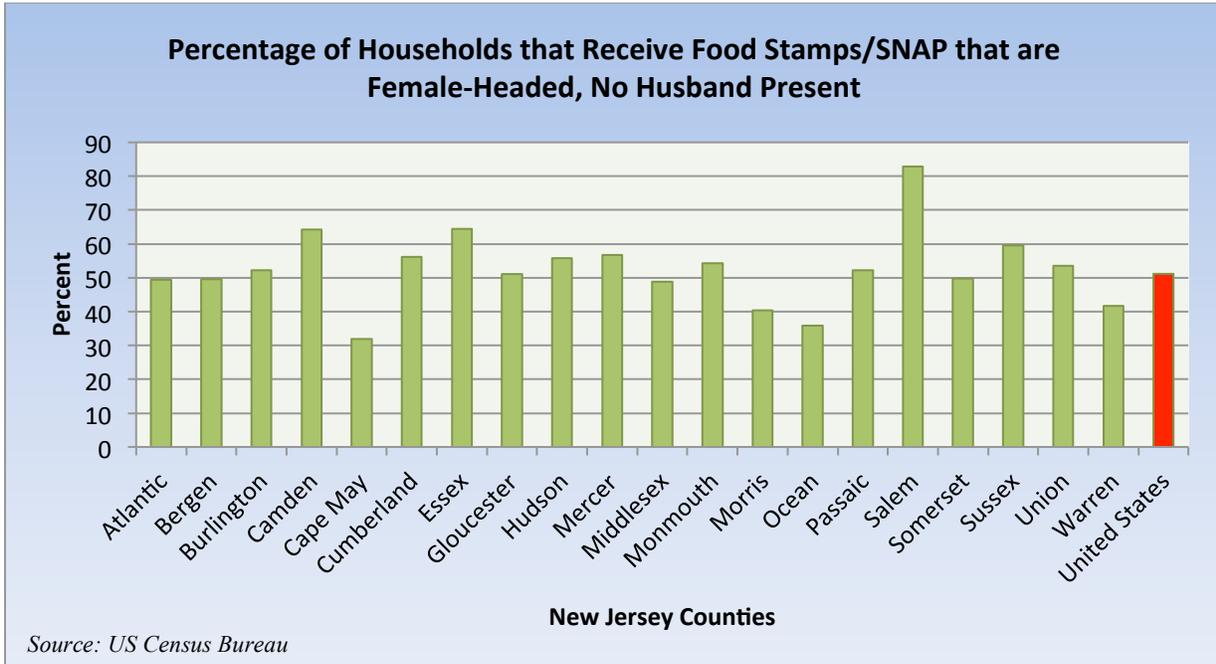
Households Receiving Food Stamps/ SNAP in the Past 12 Months in Atlantic County



- The majority of food stamp/SNAP recipient households are headed by a female householder with no husband present.

Atlantic County is comparable to the other counties in the state (excepting Hunterdon County for which no data were available) and to the nation generally in the representation of female-headed households among SNAP recipients:

Figure 35



Section 5: Reproductive Health & Rights

This section discusses reproductive health and rights for women in Atlantic County, including coverage of reproductive health services for civil service employees, rates of infant mortality, low birth weight, prenatal care and teen births, and access to reproductive health services.

Civil service employees in Atlantic County are covered by two major healthcare plans that cover a range of reproductive health services, from contraceptives to reproduction assistance such as in vitro fertilization.

Atlantic County residents (other than Stockton University students) have access to only one clinical service site that provides family planning services covered by Title X.

The percentage of officials in Atlantic County and in the state of New Jersey who are pro-choice has not been assessed by any study or commission, and as such, is unknown at this time.¹⁵

The infant mortality rate for Atlantic County is 8.9 per 1,000 live births, averaged over the most recent ten years for which data are available. The county IMR exceeds both the state and national rates.

The percentage of infants born with low birth weight in Atlantic County is 8.3%, which is close to both the state and national rates.

At 74%, Atlantic County's rate of first-trimester prenatal care is comparable to the U.S. rate, but lower than the rate for New Jersey.

The percentage of mothers under the age of 19 in Atlantic county is 9%. This percentage exceeds the state rate of 5% and the national rate of 3.46%.

¹⁵ Although some states compile data regarding the position officials take on the issue of abortion, New Jersey is not among them. Organizations such as NARAL also compile such data for certain states, not including New Jersey.

I. Coverage for Infertility Treatments and Contraceptives for Civil Service Employees

The New Jersey Civil Service Commission reported that as of 2013, 2.3% of state government employees (1,707 employees) work in Atlantic County. Within the state of New Jersey, each county adheres to a statewide healthcare plan. The New Jersey Department of Treasury Division of Pension and Benefits (2015) indicates there are two major healthcare programs that cover all New Jersey employees: Aetna and NJ Direct.

Both plans provide coverage for a range of infertility treatments as mandated by the state. Under the Affordable Care Act, certain contraceptives, contraceptive devices and procedures are covered without member copayment; religious organizations and employers may be exempt from providing contraceptive coverage.

II. Infant Mortality Rate

Using the most recent confirmed infant mortality data, the U.S. infant mortality rate (IMR) in 2011 was 6.1 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, while New Jersey's IMR was 5.0 and Atlantic County's IMR was uncharacteristically high at 11.3 (Martin, et al., 2013, NJ Dept. of Health). However, as seen in Table 2:

- Atlantic County's five-year IMR from 2007-2011 was 8.8 per 1,000, a rate very similar to its previous five-year rate of 8.6 from 2002-2006. For comparison, New Jersey's five-year IMR was 5.2 in the 2007-2011 period, down slightly from an IMR of 5.5 in the previous five-year period. In addition to consistently exceeding the state and national rates, Atlantic County's cumulative IMR remained fairly stable from the first five-year period to the second, while the five-year IMR for New Jersey dropped slightly.

Table 1 provides infant mortality rates at county, state and national levels for 2010, because data from that year more closely reflect the county's five-year and ten-year IMR than do 2011 data.

Table 1

Infant Mortality Rates, 2010			
	Infant Deaths	Live Births	Rate per 1,000 Births
Atlantic County	27	3,282	8.2
New Jersey	513	106,571	4.8
United States	24,572	3,999,386	6.2

Source: NJ Department of Health

Table 2 compares five- and ten-year infant mortality data for Atlantic County and New Jersey from 2002 to 2011.

Table 2

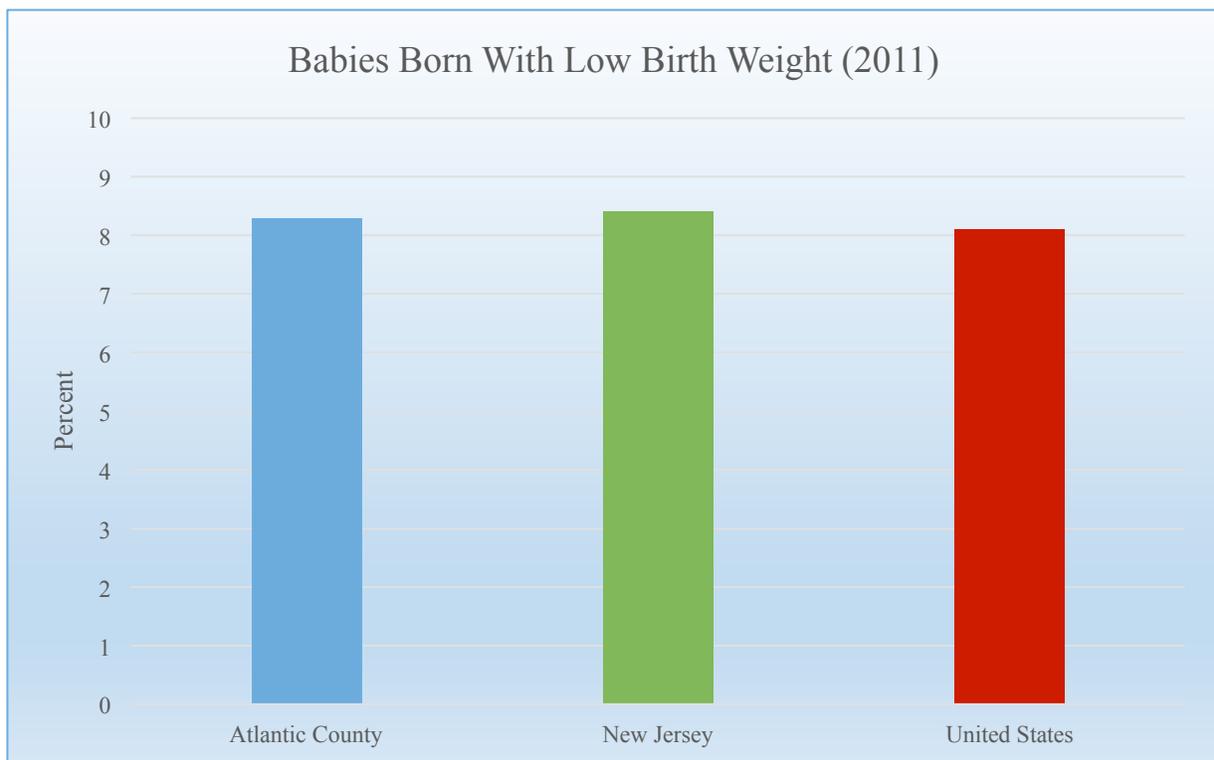
Five-year and Ten-year Infant Mortality Rates, 2002-2011						
	Atlantic County			New Jersey		
	Infant Deaths	Live Births	Rate per 1,000 Births	Infant Deaths	Live Births	Rate per 1,000 Births
2002-2006	153	17,771	8.6	3,155	574,225	5.5
2007-2011	156	17,782	8.8	2,781	549,936	5.1
Total	309	35,553	8.7	5,936	1,124,161	5.3

Source: Southern NJ Perinatal Cooperative

III. Babies Born with Low Birth Weight

For Atlantic County and New Jersey, as well as for the United States, the most recent counts of low birth weight were taken in 2011. Atlantic County’s rate is comparable to the rates for New Jersey and the U.S.

Figure 1



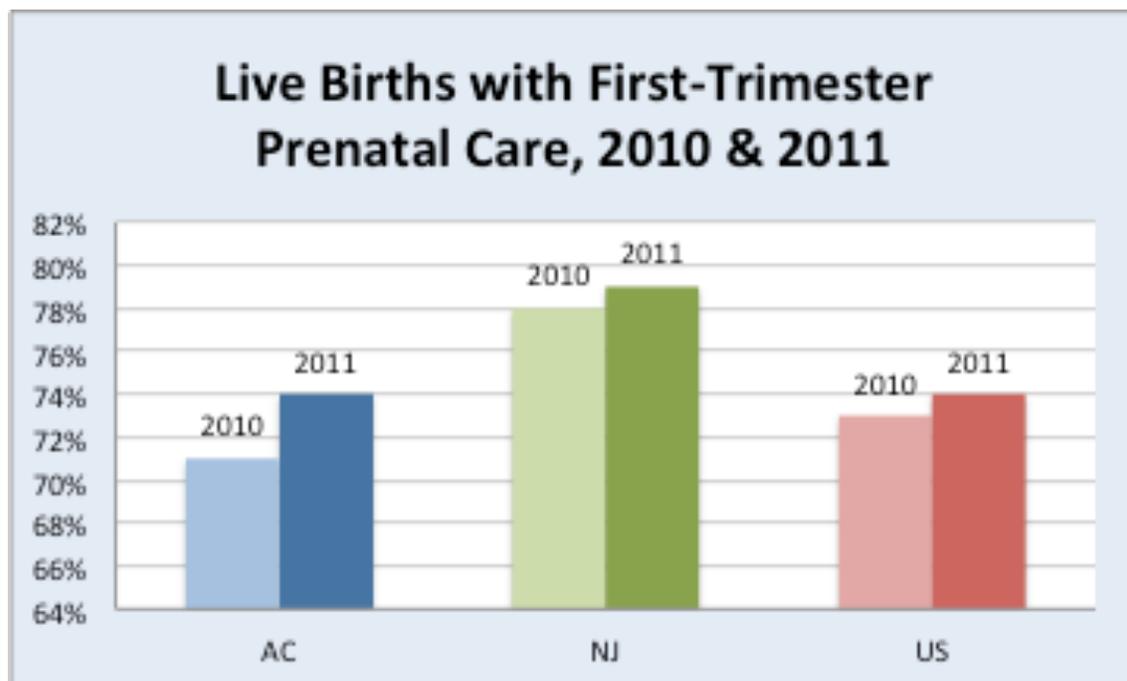
Source: NJ Department of Health

According to the New Jersey Department of Health (2014), in 2011, 8.1% of live births in the United States were of low birth weight. In comparison, 8.4% of all live births in New Jersey were of low birth weight, and 8.3% of all live births in Atlantic County were of low birth weight.

IV. Prenatal Care

For Atlantic County, New Jersey, and the United States, the most recent available data on prenatal care are from 2011. Atlantic County's 2011 rate of first-trimester prenatal care is comparable to the U.S. rate for that year, but lower than the rate for New Jersey. As seen in Figure 2, first-trimester care rates increased from 2010 to 2011 in all three regions, with the county showing the greatest one-year increase.

Figure 2



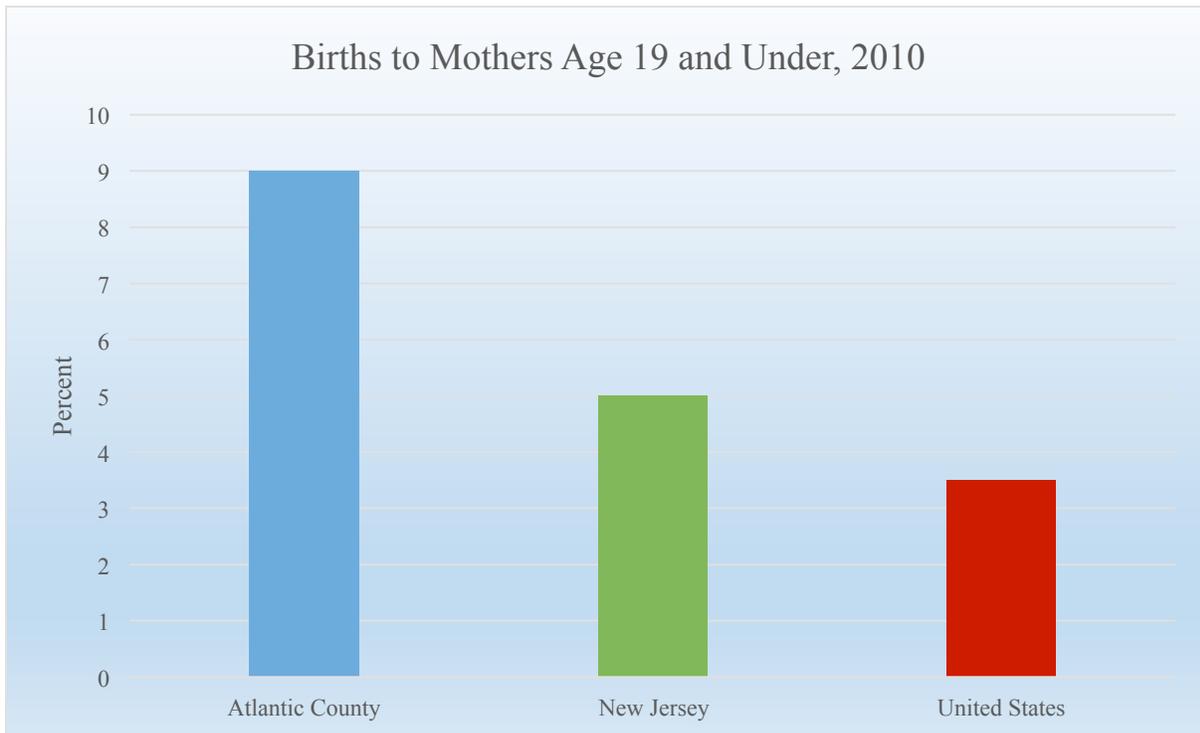
Sources: NJ Kids Count AC Profiles 2014 & 2015, U.S. HRSA Child Health USA 2012 & 2013

- In Atlantic County, 74% of live births in 2011 were to mothers who received first-trimester prenatal care, up from 71% in 2010.
- In New Jersey, 79% of 2011 births were to mothers who received prenatal care in their first trimester, up from 78% in 2010.
- In 2011, of states that had implemented the 2003 revised standard birth certificate (all 50 have done so of 2015), 73.7% of live births were to mothers who received prenatal care in their first trimester, up from 73.1% in 2010.

V. Mothers Age 19 and Under

As with birth weight and prenatal care, the most recent data on teen births are from 2011. Nine percent of births in Atlantic County in both 2010 and 2011 were to mothers age 19 and younger. This rate is higher than New Jersey's state rate of 5% for both years. The national rate of mothers 19 years of age and under was 3.46% in 2010.

Figure 3



VI. Access to Reproductive Care

Title X is a federal program designed to provide access to family planning and contraceptive information and services, regardless of ability to pay. Through Title X, the U.S. Office of Population Health (Dept. of Health and Human Services) funds a network of 4,100 family planning centers throughout the U.S., serving about 4.1 million clients through 7.2 million encounters in 2014. Title X funding and the size and reach of the service network have declined steadily since 2010, trends also apparent in Atlantic County.

Health care services provided by Title X agencies in New Jersey include contraceptive information and counseling, breast and cervical cancer screenings, tests and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases and HIV, general health screenings and referrals, pregnancy diagnosis and counseling, and community education on a wide range of health topics.

- Atlantic County is currently served by only one provider of free and sliding-scale-fee family planning services under Title X: Planned Parenthood of Southern New Jersey. Planned Parenthood has one service site in Atlantic City, with a second site located on the Stockton University campus, for use by Stockton students. The Planned Parenthood site formerly located in Hammonton, NJ (in the western part of the county) closed in 2014.

New Jersey is part of Title X Region 2, along with New York, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The New Jersey Family Planning League, Inc. is the sole Title X grantee in New Jersey, with Planned Parenthood is its only Title X family planning agency in Atlantic County.

As seen in Table 3, Atlantic County contains 3% of New Jersey's total estimated population and is served by one publically accessible free/sliding-scale family planning service site, representing 2% of the state's Title X service sites. While New Jersey is the most densely populated state and home to 2.8% of the U.S. population, New Jersey's 50 family planning service sites account for 1.2% of all Title X service sites in the United States. New Jersey residents are about 2% of all Title X users.

Table 3

Title X Family Planning Clinics by Population and Land Area					
	Title X Service Sites	Total Population (2013)	Population per Site	Land Area (sq. miles)	Land Area per Site (sq. miles)
Atlantic County	1*	274,549	274,549	556	556
New Jersey	50	8,791,936	175,839	7,354	147
United States	4,127	308,758,105	74,814	3,531,905	856

Sources: US Census Bureau, NJ Family Planning League, Planned Parenthood of Southern NJ, Southern NJ Perinatal Cooperative.

*There are two service sites in the county, but one is accessible only to the students of the university campus where it is located.

Section 6:

Health and Well-Being

This section addresses a range of conditions that affect women’s health and well-being in Atlantic County, with comparisons to relevant health data for New Jersey and the United States.

Mortality rates (per 100,000 population) are reported for key causes of death including heart disease, lung cancer, breast cancer and suicide. Rates of diagnosis for diabetes and incidence of HIV and AIDS are reported for women and men in the county, state and United States whenever possible. Rates of domestic violence, sexual assault, rape, arrests for sex work, and human trafficking are also reported. Data on these forms of gender-based violence and crime are collected and analyzed differently at county, state and national levels, but relevant comparisons across demographics are drawn where possible.

In brief, Atlantic County women have elevated rates of mortality from heart disease and lung cancer compared to women across New Jersey and the U.S. as well as higher rates of adult obesity, excessive drinking and smoking—factors that contribute to these conditions.

Atlantic County has the highest mortality rate from breast cancer of any county in New Jersey, a rate that also exceeds that for women in the United States. Women in Atlantic County also have a higher rate of diabetes diagnoses than either women or men in New Jersey and in the United States as a whole.

Of HIV/AIDS cases in Atlantic County and New Jersey, the percentage of total cases diagnosed as AIDS (as opposed to HIV) is lower among women than among men at both county and state levels. The rate of suicide among women in Atlantic County is notably low.

Although Atlantic County accounts for 3.1% of New Jersey’s total population, the county accounts for 7.6% of the state’s arrests for domestic violence and 12.8% of state arrests for prostitution. Human trafficking is difficult to track at the county level, but in 2014, the state of New Jersey had the fifth highest number of reported sex trafficking cases in the United States.

It should be noted that, as a tourist destination, Atlantic County has many visitors each year, and crime data do not differentiate visitors from permanent residents, so that county crime rates may be “artificially” elevated.

Atlantic County women have elevated rates of mortality from heart disease and lung cancer compared to women across New Jersey and the U.S., as well as higher rates of adult obesity, excessive drinking and smoking—factors that contribute to these conditions.

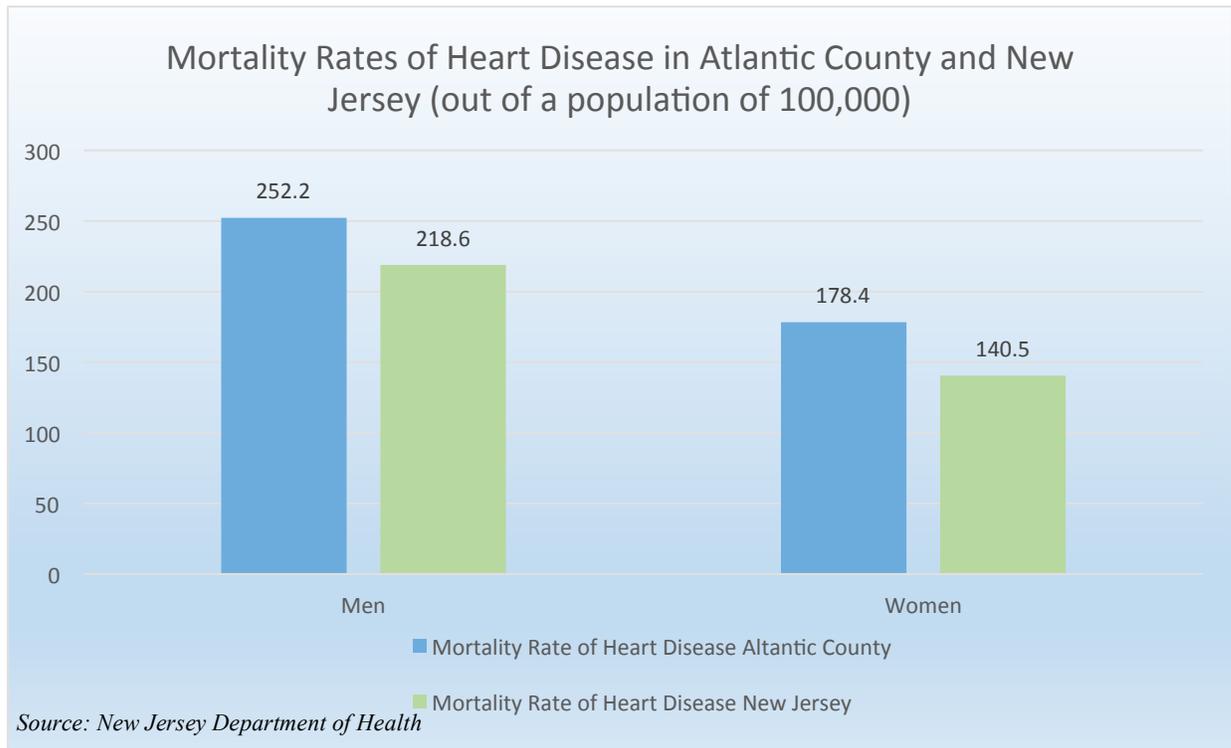
Atlantic County has the highest mortality rate from breast cancer of any county in New Jersey, a rate that also exceeds that for women in the United States.

Although Atlantic County accounts for 3.1% of New Jersey’s total population, the county accounts for 7.6% of the state’s arrests for domestic violence and 12.8% of state arrests for prostitution. However, these data do not distinguish permanent residents from visitors.

I. Mortality Rates from Heart Disease

- The overall mortality rate from heart disease in Atlantic County was 212.1 per 100,000, compared to the New Jersey overall rate of 173.8.
- The mortality rate for Atlantic County women was 178.4, compared to the New Jersey women's rate of 140.5.
- In contrast, the mortality rate for Atlantic County men was 252.2, compared to the New Jersey men's rate of 218.6.
- Obesity and excessive drinking are key contributing factors in heart disease. Atlantic County has a rate of adult obesity of 27%, compared to the New Jersey rate of 24% and a national rate of 25%.
- In addition, the excessive drinking rate of Atlantic County was 19%, slightly higher than the New Jersey rate of 16% and over double the national rate of 8%.

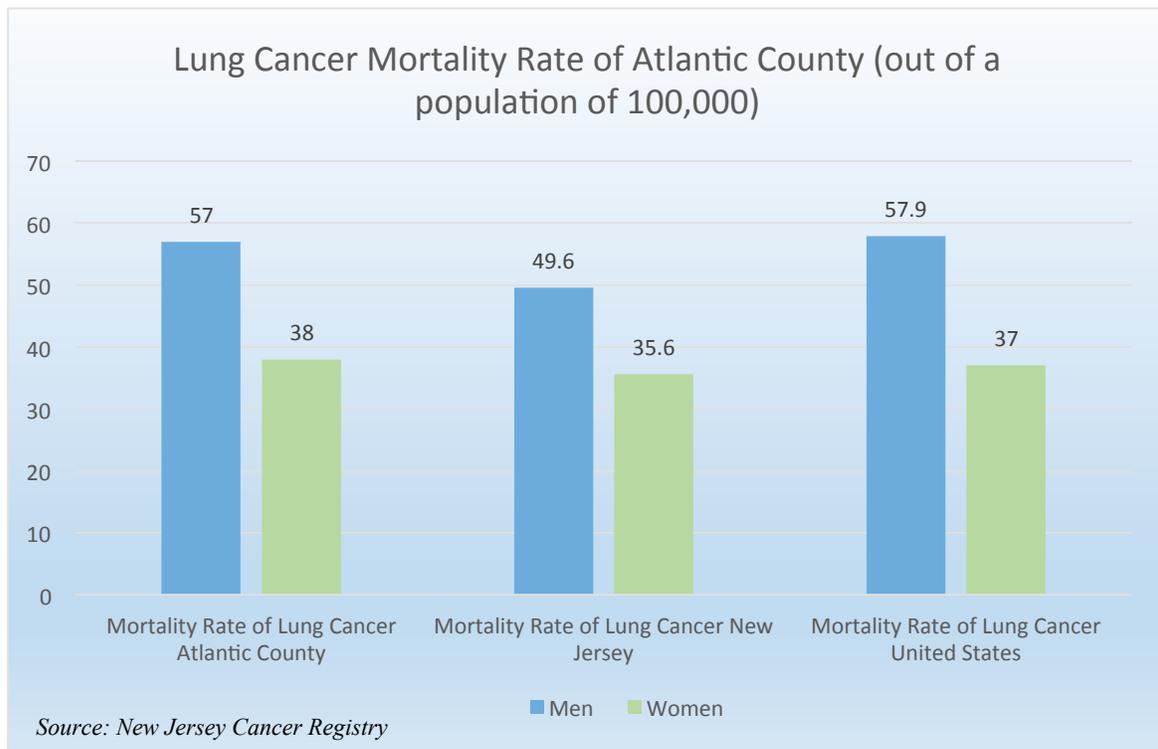
Figure 1



II. Mortality Rates from Lung Cancer

- Mortality from lung cancer in Atlantic County is comparable to national rates, but higher than the state.
- Lung cancer is one of the prominent causes of death in Atlantic County with an overall mortality rate of 46.6, compared to the New Jersey overall rate of 41.4 and the national rate of 46.
- This elevated mortality rate might be partly attributable to the high proportion of smokers in Atlantic County. Atlantic County ranks third in the state with 23% of its adult population being smokers, higher than New Jersey's rate of 17% and the national rate of 15%.
- The mortality rate among Atlantic County women was 38, compared to 35.6 for women in New Jersey and the national women's rate of 37.
- The mortality rate among Atlantic County men was 57, compared to men in New Jersey at 49.6 and the national men's rate of 57.9.

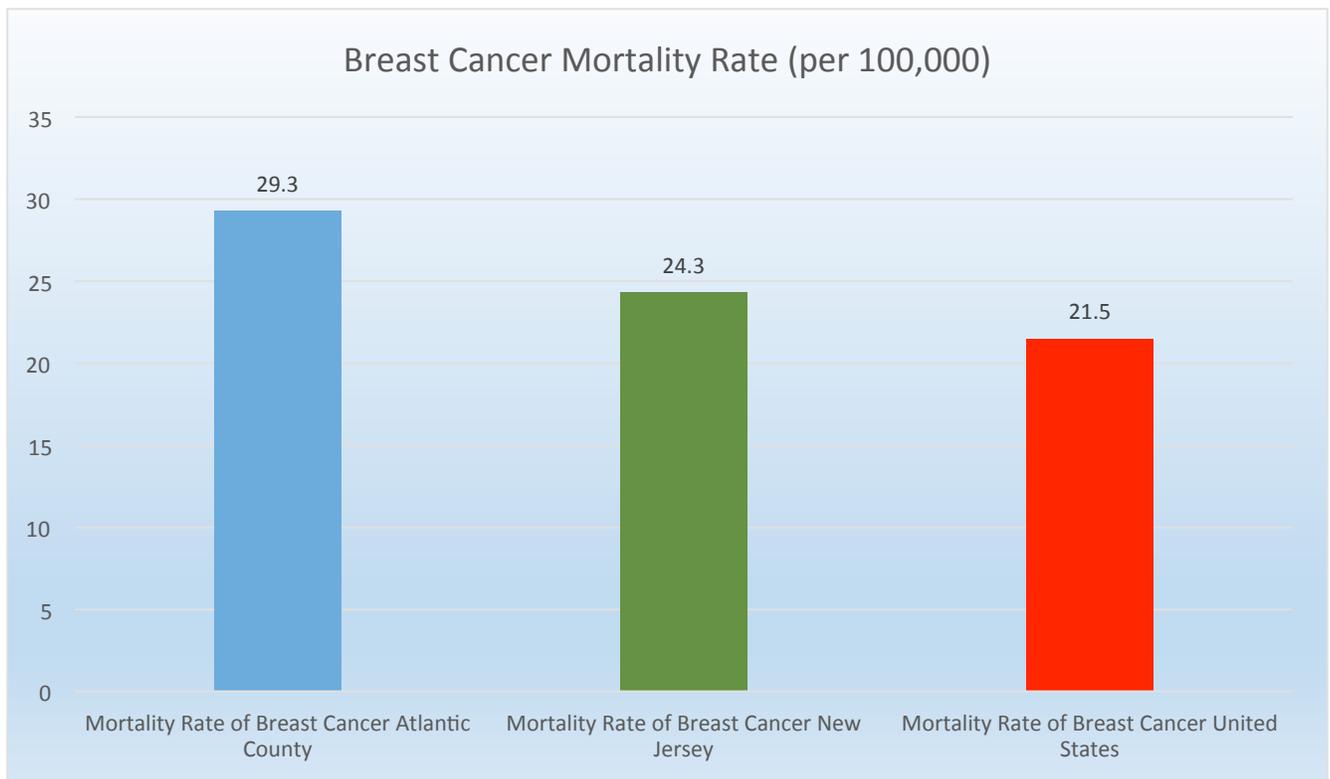
Figure 2



III. Mortality Rates from Breast Cancer

- In 2011 Atlantic County had an age-adjusted female breast cancer mortality rate of 29.3, compared to 24.3 in New Jersey and 21.5 in the United States.
- Compared to other counties, Atlantic County had the highest age-adjusted female breast cancer mortality rate in the state of New Jersey.

Figure 3

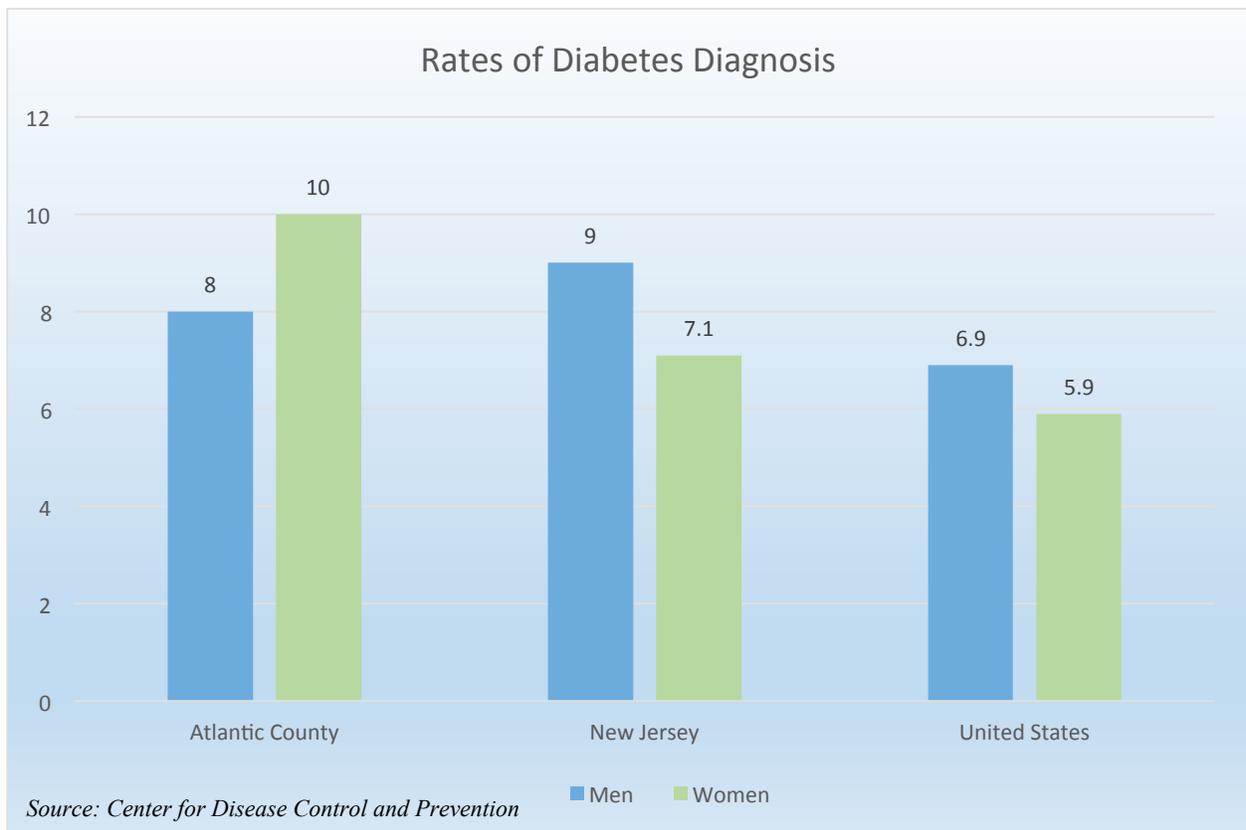


Source: NJ Cancer Registry

IV. Rates of Diabetes Diagnosis

- In 2011 in Atlantic County the total age-adjusted rate of doctor-diagnosed diabetes for men and women combined was 8.7%.
- The age-adjusted rate for women in Atlantic County was 10.0%, compared to a 7.1% rate for women in New Jersey and a 5.9% rate for women in the United States.
- The age-adjusted rate for men in Atlantic County was 8.0%, compared to a 9.0% rate for men in New Jersey and 6.9% for men in the United States.

Figure 4

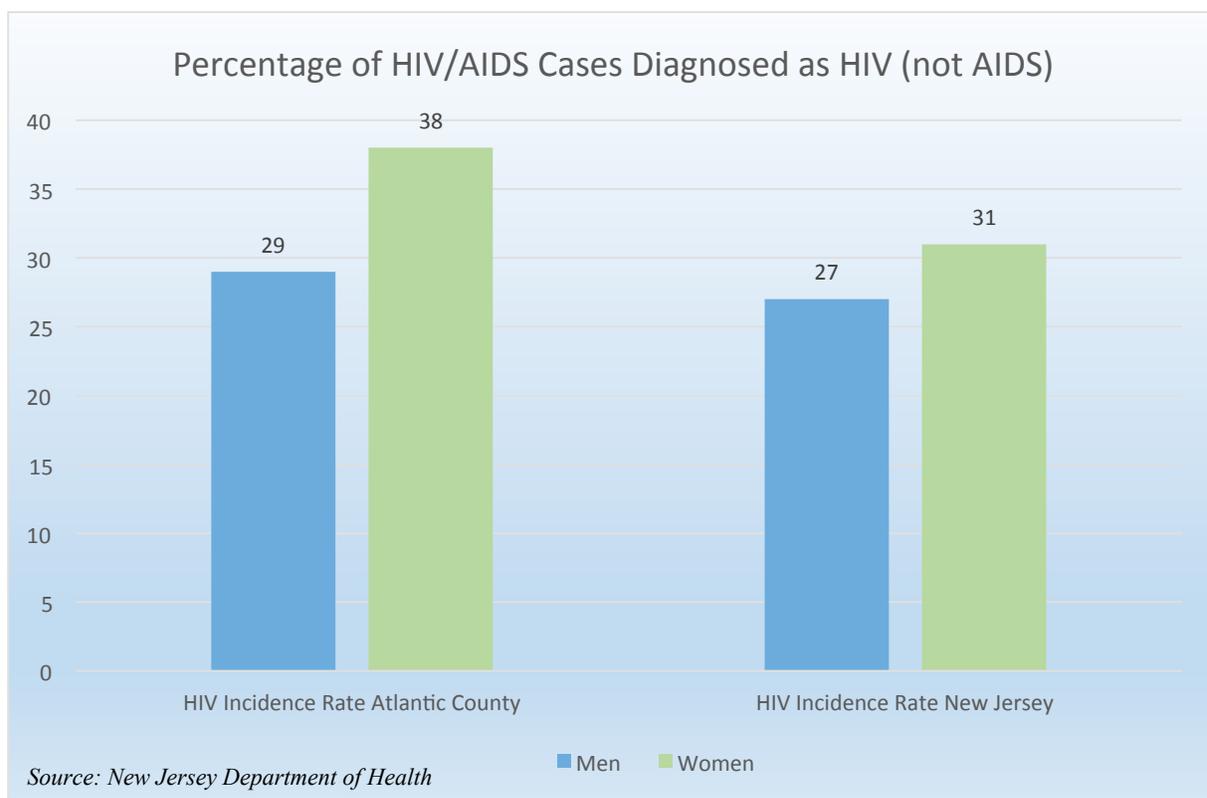


V. HIV (vs AIDS) Incidence Rates Among Women and Men Age 13 and Up

- According to the New Jersey Department of Health, of 3,006 reported cases of HIV infection and AIDS in Atlantic County as of December 2014, 802 (26.7%) were women.
- Of 1,541 reported deaths among Atlantic County residents diagnosed with HIV/AIDS, 366 (23.8%) were women.
- For 49% of HIV/AIDS cases among women in Atlantic County, the transmission category was heterosexual contact (compared to 17% for men); for another 46% of women county residents with HIV/AIDS the transmission category was injection drug use (compared to 35% for men).

When looking at the total number of female HIV/AIDS cases reported in Atlantic County in 2013, 38.0% of those cases were HIV diagnoses and 62.0% of these cases were AIDS diagnoses. In New Jersey as a whole, HIV/AIDS cases among women were reported to be 31.0% HIV diagnoses and 69.0% AIDS diagnoses. When looking at the total number of male HIV/AIDS cases in Atlantic County in 2013, 29.0% of these cases were HIV diagnoses and a 71.0% of these cases were AIDS diagnoses. In New Jersey as a whole, men HIV/AIDS cases were reported to be 27.0% HIV diagnoses and 73.0% AIDS diagnoses.

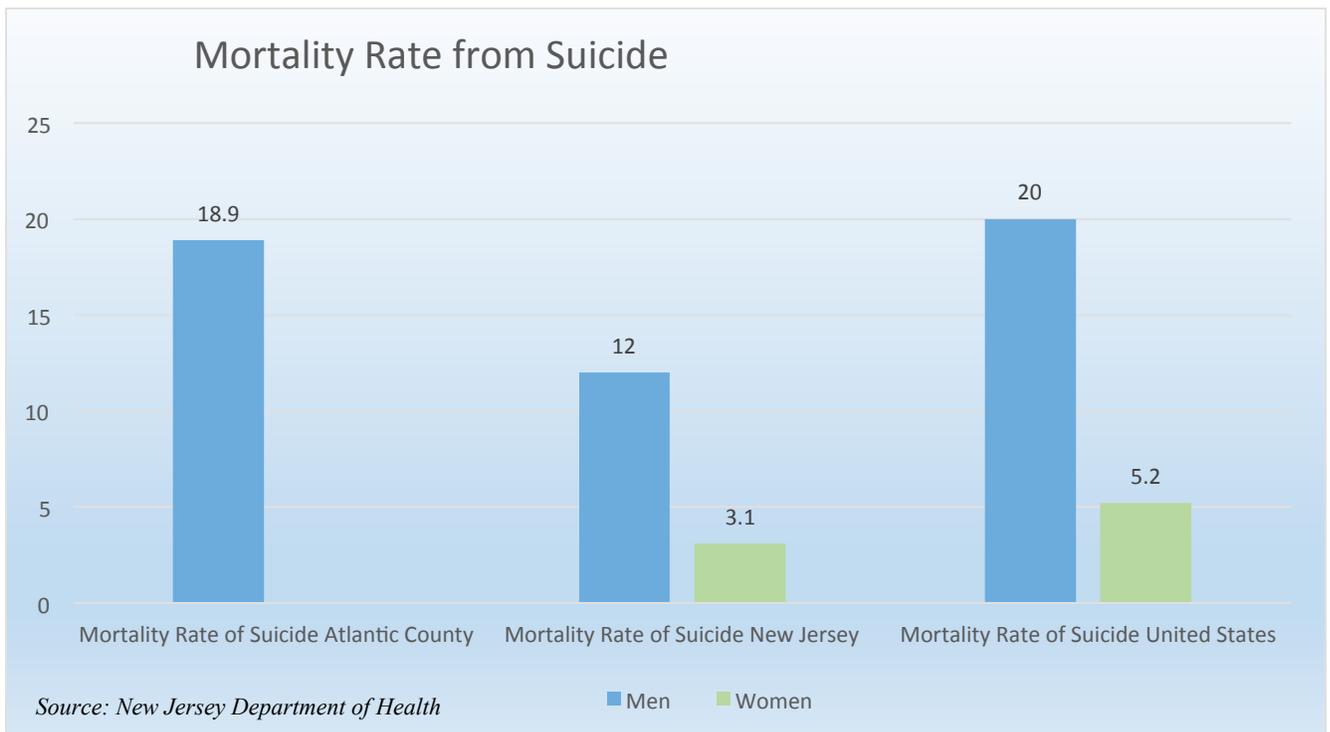
Figure 5



VI. Mortality Rates from Suicide

- The age-adjusted male rate of suicide in Atlantic County in 2011 was 18.9 per 100,000.
- The age-adjusted female rate of suicide in Atlantic County in 2011 is unknown, but the death count was 5.
- The age-adjusted rates of suicide in New Jersey in 2011 were 12.0 for men and 3.1 for women.
- The age-adjusted rates of suicide in the United States in 2011 were 20 for men and 5.2 for women.

Figure 6



VII. Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

In 2011, although the resident population of Atlantic County accounted for 3.1% of the total population of the state of New Jersey, the county accounted for 7.6% of all domestic violence arrests in the state. Notably, any crime statistic for the county will be impacted by the county's large tourism industry.

Information on domestic violence for both Atlantic County and New Jersey is reported annually by the New Jersey State Police. Both Atlantic County and the state categorize sexual assault (excluding rape; see below), other forms of sexual violence, and stalking under the umbrella category of domestic violence (New Jersey State Police Uniform Crime Reporting Unit [NJSP UCRU], 2011).

United States data on the prevalence and characteristics of sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence victimization are drawn from the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) published in the Centers for Disease Control *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (Breiding et. al. 2014). The survey measured instances of intimate partner and sexual violence during the 12 months preceding the survey and over respondents' lifetimes. For the purposes of this report, only the information about intimate partner and sexual violence in the 12 months preceding the survey was used and though the wording is not exact, the offenses listed below are the closest equivalent for Atlantic County, New Jersey, and the United States.

Of reported domestic violence offenses in Atlantic County:

- 19 or .36% of the offenses were sexual assaults
- 12 or .23% of the offenses were stalking
- There were no reported criminal sexual contact offenses or lewdness offenses. (NJSP UCRU, 2011).

Of reported domestic violence offenses in New Jersey:

- 204 or .29% were sexual assaults. 199 or 97.5% of the victims were women and 5 or 2.5% of the victims were men.
- 47 or .07% were criminal sexual contact offenses. 43 or 91.5% of the victims were women while 4 or 8.5% of the victims were men.
- 6 or .01% were lewdness offenses. 6 or 100% of the victims were women. There were no male victims reported.
- 322 or .46% were stalking offenses. 280 or 87% of the victims were women and 42 or 13% of the victims were men.

Of the domestic violence offenses in the United States:

- 5.5% of women and 5.1% of men surveyed experienced other forms of sexual violence besides rape (made to penetrate, sexual coercion, unwanted sexual contact, and non-contact unwanted sexual experiences such as catcalling, sexual comments, or unwanted exposure to pornography). Among all those surveyed, 2.1% of women and 2.1% of men surveyed experienced other forms of sexual violence besides rape where the offender was an intimate partner.
- 4.1% of women and 2.1% of the men surveyed experienced stalking.
- 2.3% of women and 2.1% of men surveyed experienced physical violence by an intimate partner (being hit with something hard, being kicked or beaten, or being burned on purpose).

VIII. Rape

For Atlantic County and New Jersey, rape is reported in a distinct crime category separate from the domestic violence category (NJSP UCRU, 2011). The United States data have been collected via the NISVS and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

For Atlantic County, of 15,022 offenses not under the domestic violence category, 14 or 0.09% were categorized as rape. As for New Jersey, in 2011, of 364,944 total arrests, 282 or .08% were for rape. Of those arrests, 275 or 97.5% of those arrested were men and 7 or 2.5% of those arrests were women (NJSP UCRU, 2011).

For the United States, of the 1,203,564 total violent crimes reported in 2011, 83,425 or 6.9% of these crimes were recorded as being for “forcible rape” (FBI, 2011). Of the women surveyed using the NISVS, 1.6% reported being raped, while the percentage of men who reported being raped was too statistically insignificant to be included in the report.

Among those surveyed, 2.1% of women and 2.1% of men surveyed experienced other forms of sexual violence besides rape where the offender was an intimate partner. Eight percent of women who were surveyed had experience rape by an intimate partner in their lifetimes. The percentage of men who had experienced rape by an intimate partner was too statistically insignificant to be included in the report.

IX. Sex Work and Trafficking

For the purposes of this report, prostitution is defined by Hoffman (2012) as illegally offering sexual relations for payment. This definition includes “commercialized vice”, and distinguishes prostitution from other sex-related offenses including rape and sexual assault.

In Atlantic County, there were 119 arrests for prostitution and commercialized vice in 2012, which is an increase from 90 arrests in 2011 (Hoffman, et al., 2012). Of those arrested, 117 were over the age of 18, while 2 were juveniles. In New Jersey, there were 930 prostitution arrests in 2012, and 2 percent of these arrests were juveniles (Hoffman, J. J., et al., 2012).

Atlantic County accounted for 12.8% of all prostitution arrests in the State of New Jersey in 2011.

Sex trafficking, unlike prostitution, is, “. . . a form of modern-day slavery in which individuals perform commercial sex through the use of force, fraud, or coercion” (National Human Trafficking Resource Center, 2015). Though prostitution can be a component of sex trafficking, they are reported separately.

In 2014, there were 3,598 total sex trafficking cases reported for the United States. In that same year, New Jersey had 125 reported sex trafficking cases, making it the fifth highest ranking state for human trafficking (National Human Trafficking Resource Center, 2015). No data are currently available on trafficking at the county level.

Figure 7

References for Section 6, VII-IX

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Conclusions

With change comes opportunity. Atlantic County's natural beauty, its rich history, its cultural and educational resources, and its talented and industrious workforce will continue to provide the foundation for improving the lives of all of our residents, including Atlantic County's 141,500 women and girls. While this report certainly documents challenges facing the County, it also provides clear evidence of the County's strengths and potential. Below, we highlight key facets of this snapshot of women in Atlantic County.

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While this report certainly documents challenges facing the County, it also provides clear evidence of the County's strengths and potential. To the right, we highlight key facets of this snapshot of women in Atlantic County.

- **Section 1, Basic Demographics:** The diversity of Atlantic County's residents is one source of its vitality. Given the higher incidence of women who experience disability, it is key that resources remain and/or are made available for this population.
- **Section 2, Political Participation:** Voter turnout for women in New Jersey is on par with national and state levels; however, women continue—as is true at the national and state levels—to have low political representation in elected offices. Strategies to address this gap might be developed as well as plans to ensure continuing efforts to register all voters and encourage widespread political participation. In developing programs to nurture women leaders, Atlantic County can benefit from the resources available from the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University.
- **Section 3, Employment and Earnings:** Significantly, Atlantic County has the third largest wage gap in New Jersey and the lowest weekly wages of all New Jersey counties. However, unlike most counties in New Jersey, Atlantic County has a high percentage of employed men and women. One challenge is to integrate women into all fields of employment. Another is to support economic development strategies that create jobs providing adequate hours, family-sustaining wages, and enable residents to achieve work-family balance.
- **Section 4, Social and Economic Autonomy:** In order to foster greater social and economic autonomy and avoid the trap of poverty, Atlantic County women need assistance from political and social institutions. Education is one route to economic mobility. Women business owners need assistance in transforming small initiatives into thriving enterprises. The Small Business Development Center, housed at Carnegie Library Center, is a key resource to utilize to address these issues. Female-headed households are at particular risk of poverty in Atlantic County as well as nationwide. While SNAP

and other aspects of our social safety net are critical in helping these families, addressing the national, state and county wage gap will also help reduce poverty.

- **Section 5, Reproductive Health/Rights:** Atlantic County women require good access to reproductive health and family planning resources. Prenatal care rates suggest that women may not be utilizing these resources fully. More information is needed to determine why women are not fully accessing reproductive care resources. Factors such as access to health information and transportation may need to be addressed.
- **Section 6, Health and Well-Being:** Women in Atlantic County are at elevated risk for heart disease, lung cancer and breast cancer compared to women across the state and the United States, as well as for health risk factors such as obesity, excessive drinking and smoking. Heterosexual contact and injection drug use are the main routes of HIV transmission among women in the county. Rates of domestic violence and prostitution are disproportionately high relative to the county's population, and New Jersey had a high number of sex trafficking cases in 2014. Addressing gender violence, promoting health literacy, healthy behaviors and disease prevention, and increasing access to health care—particularly reproductive and sexual health care—are promising avenues for improving the health and well-being of women and girls in Atlantic County.

The researchers welcome feedback on this report. Grant funding through the Scholarship of Engagement program at Stockton University for the 2015-2017 academic years ensures that the data and the report will be updated going forward.

To submit feedback or requests for additional information about the report, please email Dr. Betsy Erbaugh, Assistant Professor of Sociology, erbaughe@stockton.edu.