State of the Family in New Jersey

The United States Family Belonging Index is 46 percent, with a corresponding Family Rejection Index of 54 percent, based on 2008-2012 data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey. The action of parents determines the Family Belonging or Rejection Index within a nation, region, state, or racial or ethnic group—whether they marry and belong to each other, or whether they reject one another through divorce or other means. Rejection leaves children without married parents committed to one another and to their children.

The Index of Family Belonging is determined by the fraction of children aged 15 to 17 in a given area who live with both their biological parents, who have been married since before or around the time of their birth.

1. Index of Belonging

New Jersey has a Family Belonging Index of 53.6 percent. In other words, 53.6 percent of New Jersey teenagers aged 15 to 17 have lived with their always-married parents since their birth, whereas 46.4 percent of these adolescents were raised in a non-intact family. New Jersey ranks 3rd on the state ranking of the Index of Belonging and Rejection.¹⁾



2. Outcomes by Index of Belonging

Significant outcomes: Location between states at the extremes followed by state ranking, for New Jersey

state fanking, for New Jersey		
Family Intactness % children grown up in intact families	$\begin{array}{ccc} 19 & & 54 & 57 \\ DC & & & UT \end{array}$	3^{rd}
Adoptions Adoptions per 1,000 live births	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	23^{rd}
Infant Mortality Deaths of infants under one year old per 1,000 live births	4.9 5.1 13 WA DC	47^{th}
Suicide Suicides per 1,000 inhabitants	$\underset{\mathrm{DC}}{0.06} \underset{+}{ \bullet } 0.07 \underset{\mathrm{AK}}{\qquad} 0.22$	48^{th}
Violent Crime Violent crimes per 1,000 inhabitants	$\begin{array}{ccc} 1.2 & 3.1 \\ \text{ME} & & & DC \end{array}$	28^{th}
Property Crime Property crimes per 1,000 inhabitants	$\begin{array}{ccc} 17.720.8 & & 47.8 \\ \text{ND} & & \text{DC} \end{array}$	47^{th}
Young Adult Alcoholism % 18-25 year olds reporting alcohol dependence	$5.6_{\text{NJ}} \stackrel{5.6}{\bullet} \longrightarrow 11.2_{\text{MT}}$	51^{st}
Adolescent Painkiller Abuse % 12-17 year olds with nonmedical use of painkillers	$\begin{array}{ccc} 4.1 & 4.6 \\ DC & \downarrow & NV \end{array}$	50^{th}
Young Adult Drug Treatment Need $\%$ 18-25 year olds needing but not receiving, for illicit use	$\begin{array}{ccc} 4.5 & 6.8 & & 12 \\ \text{IA} & & & \end{array}$	34^{th}
Federal Head Start Aid Federal Head Start aid per family household in state	60 70 470 NV ▶ DC	46^{th}
Federal Adoption & Foster Care Aid Federal aid & assistance per # of births	400 1400 5700 MS DC	25^{th}

2.1 Youth Outcomes

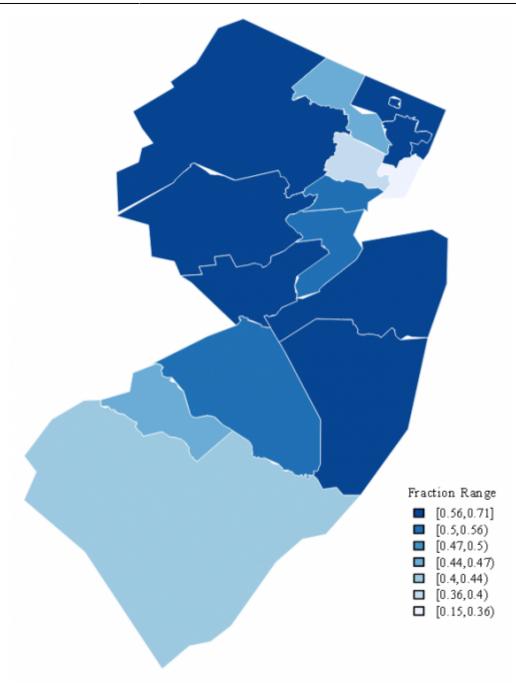
Youth Outcomes	New Jersey	Weakest State	Strongest State
Graduation rates (high	84.6	51.3 (NV)	89.6 (WI)
school)			
NAEP reading scores	273	251 (MS)*	274 (MA)
(eighth grade)			
Child poverty (percent in)	13%	31% (MS)	11% (NH)
Births to unmarried teen- agers (percent of)	5.5%	14.1% (MS)	5.3% (UT)

3. Mapping New Jersey

See Effects of Family Structure on Policy Outcomes

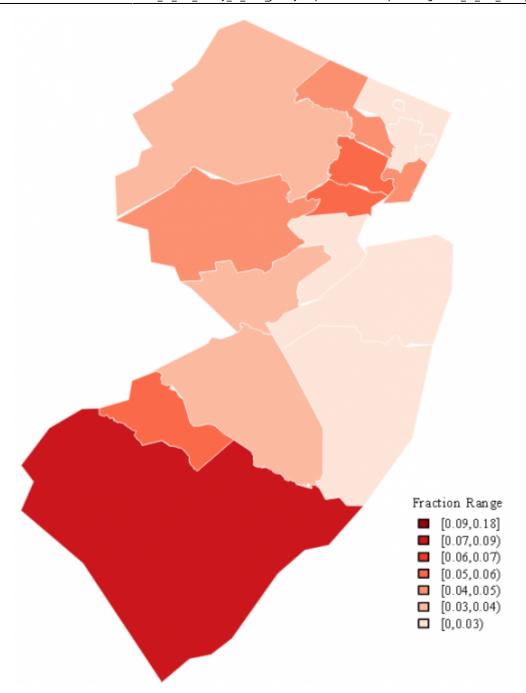
3.1 Family Intactness

Fraction of Families Intact



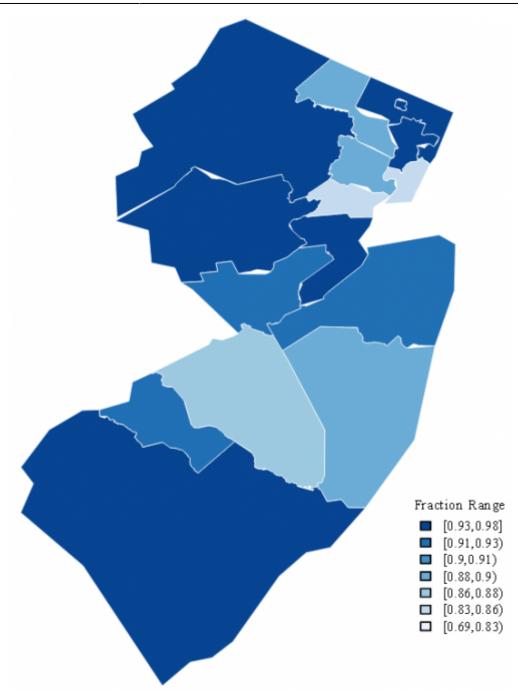
3.2 Teenage Out-of-Wedlock Births

Fraction of teenage out-of-wedlock births out of all births



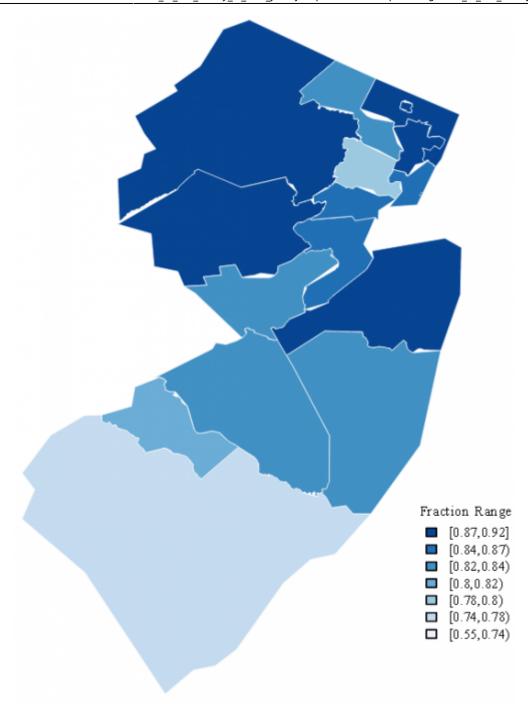
3.3 High School Graduates

Fraction of 19- to 20-year-olds who are high school graduates



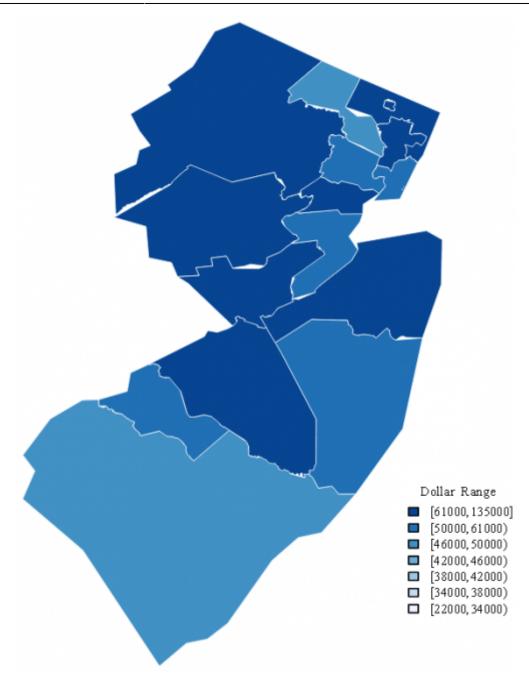
3.4 Employment

Fraction of 25- to 54-year-old men working



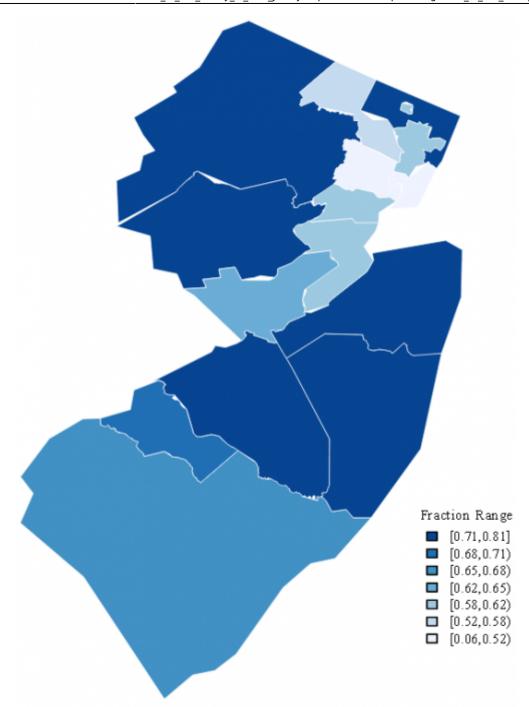
3.5 Earnings

Average earnings per 25- to 54-year-old male



3.6 Homeowners

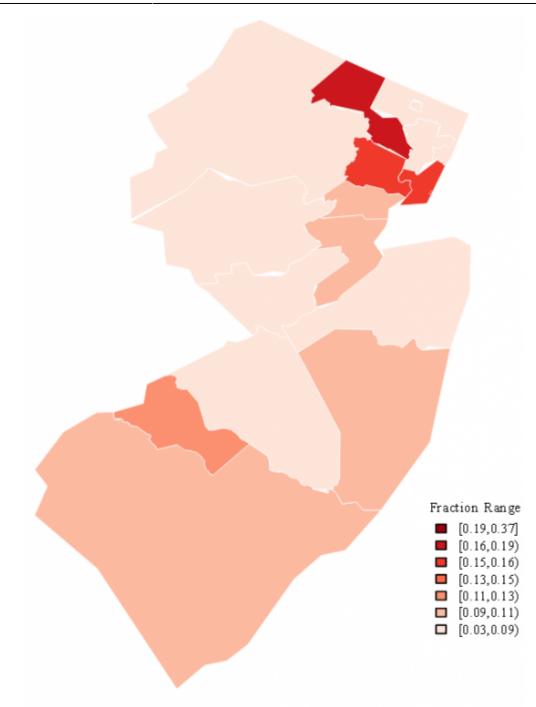
Fraction of households owning a home



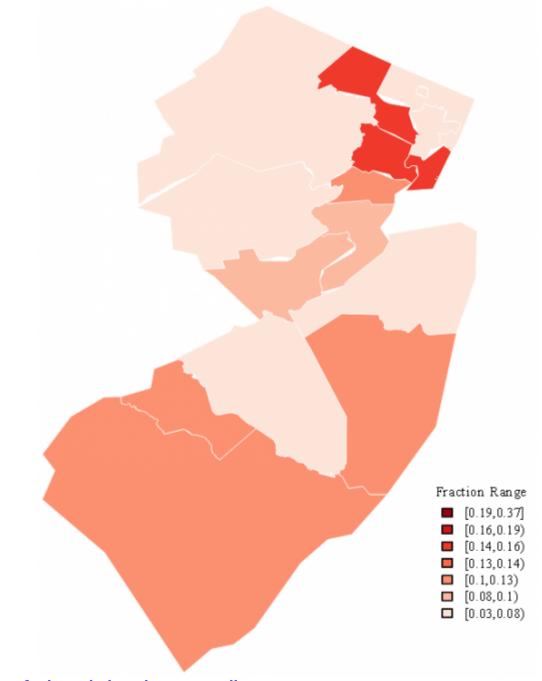
3.7 Poverty

See Effects of Family Structure on Poverty

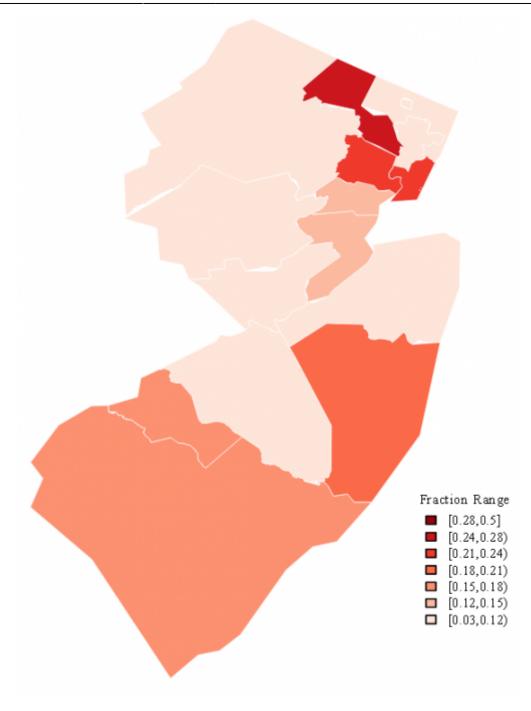
Fraction of the overall population below poverty



Fraction of 25- to 54-year-old females below the poverty line



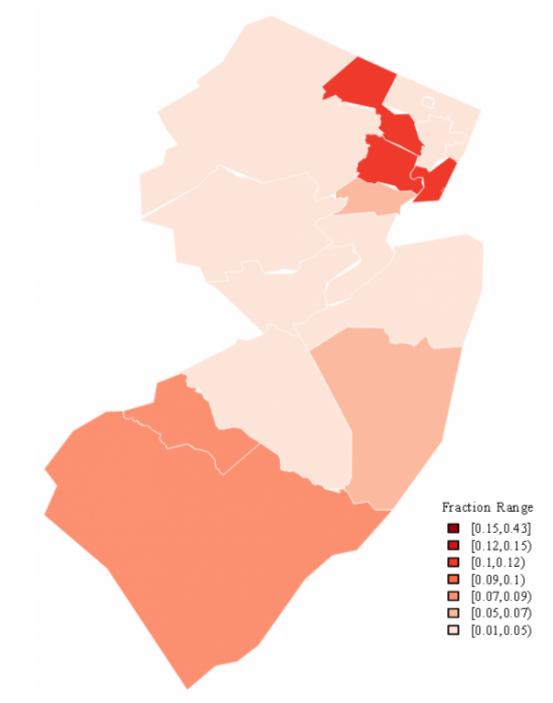
Fraction of minors below the poverty line



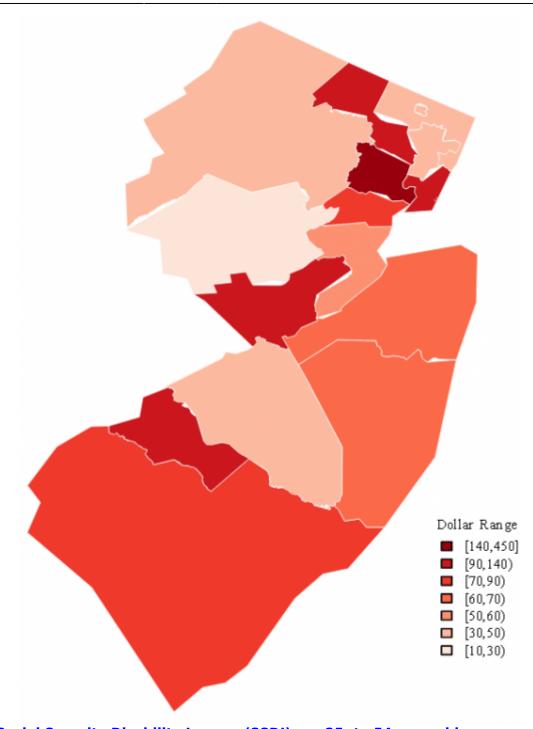
3.8 Government Dependence

See Effects of Family Structure on Government Dependency and Effects of Welfare on Families

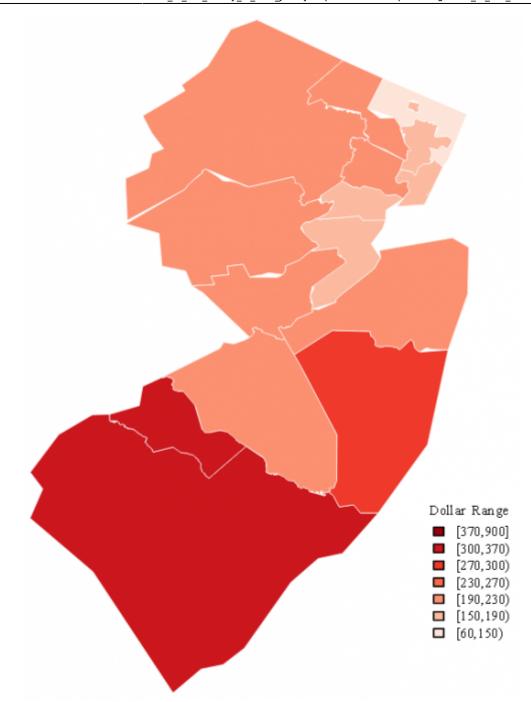
Fraction of households receiving food stamps



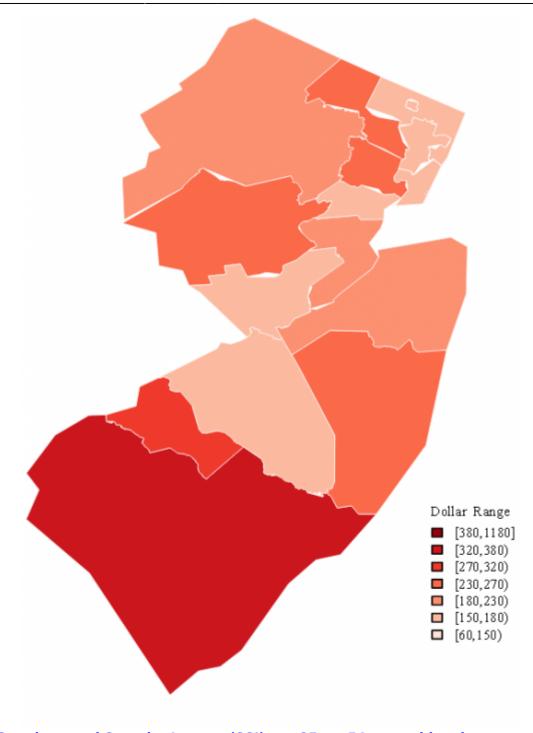
Average TANF and State Welfare Transfers per 25- to 54-year-old females



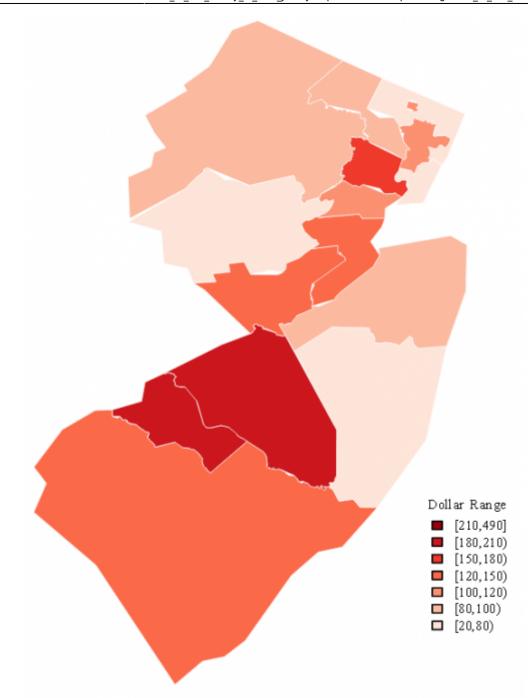
Average Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) per 25- to 54-year-olds



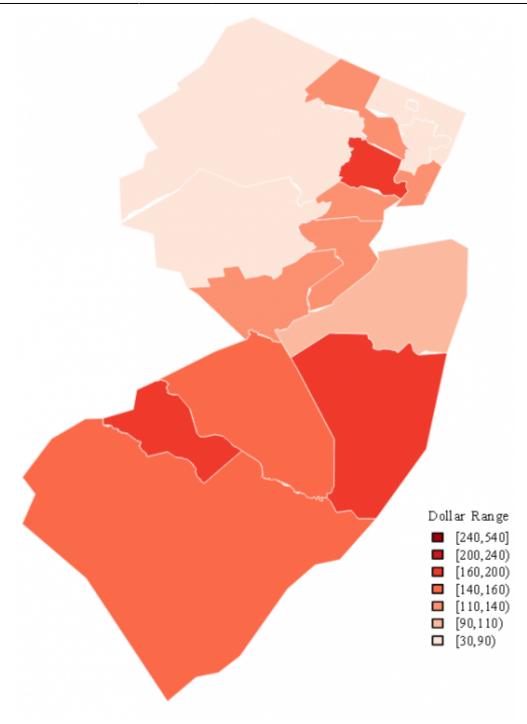
Average Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) per 25- to 54-year-old male



Average Supplemental Security Income (SSI) per 25- to 54-year-old male



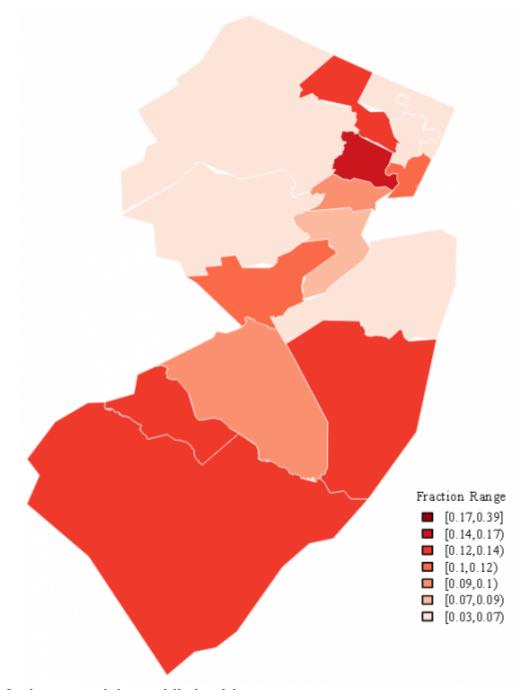
Average Supplemental Security Income (SSI) per 25- to 54-year-old female



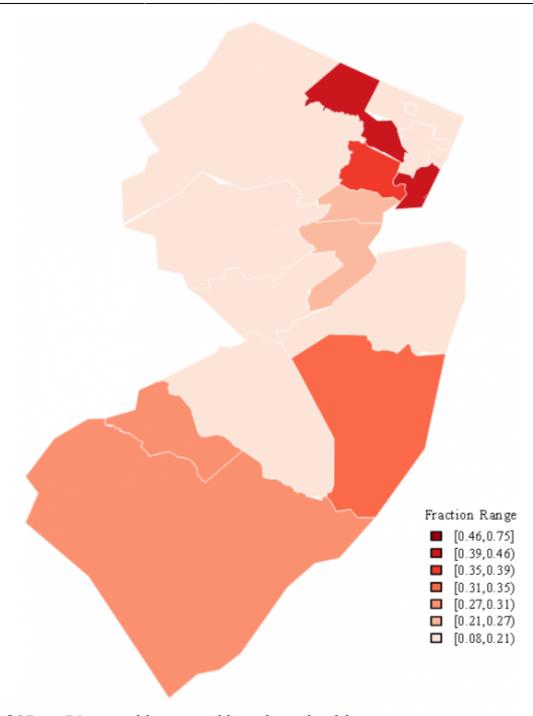
3.9 Healthcare

See Effects of Family Structure on Healthcare Coverage

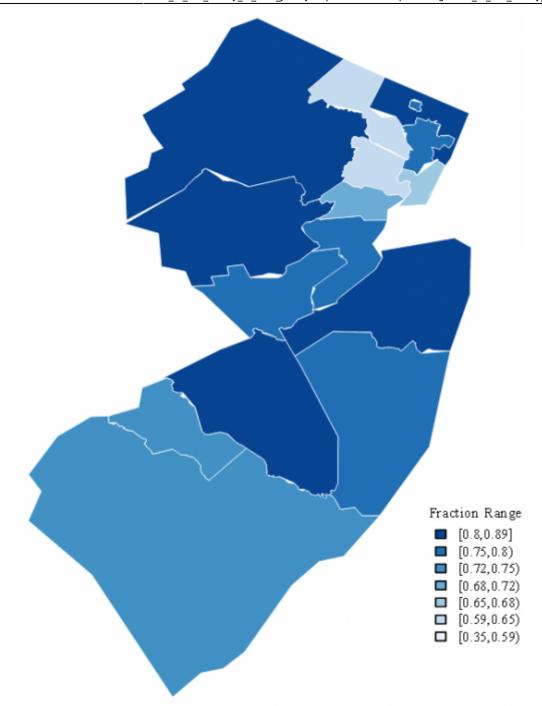
Fraction of 25- to 54-year-olds receiving public healthcare



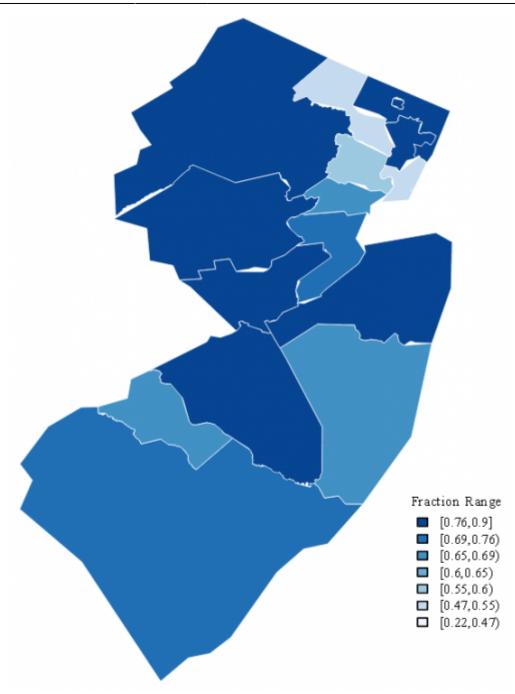
Fraction of minors receiving public healthcare



Fraction of 25- to 54-year-olds covered by private healthcare



Fraction of minors covered by private healthcare



This entry draws heavily from original research found in Index of Family Belonging and Rejection: State by State (2011), Family Intactness: Influence on Major State Social Policy Outcomes, and Family Intactness and Public Policy Outcomes by State.

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