

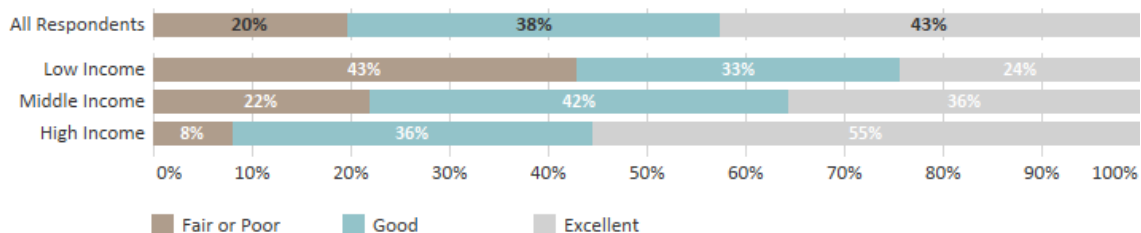
Our communities and neighborhoods play major roles in shaping opportunities to achieve optimal health and well-being. This report, the first in a series based on a poll of 1,202 New Jersey adults conducted in late 2016, provides a window into perceptions about health and well-being in New Jersey communities. Findings are based on a variety of questions about neighborhood and housing satisfaction, local access to fresh fruits and vegetables, having places to walk and exercise, library services, and environmental concerns.

- Four in five New Jersey adults rate their neighborhood as an excellent (43%) or good (38%) place to live, and they give similar ratings for access to healthy foods and places to walk or exercise nearby. In spite of these positive overall perceptions, the Poll reveals large differences by the characteristics and circumstances of respondents, pointing to opportunities to improve the lives of disadvantaged groups.
- Across all three neighborhood dimensions – as a place to live, buy healthy food, and walk or exercise – people in low income¹ families, or who are black, Hispanic, or non-citizens, or report being less healthy or without health insurance give much lower ratings. For example, compared to the state average, about 1.5–2 times as many low-income respondents rate their neighborhoods as a fair or poor place to live (43%) (Figure 1), buy healthy food (46%), and walk or exercise (41%). Charts on pages that follow, show similar perceptions among minority, non-citizen, unhealthy, and uninsured respondents (Figures 2–4).

- New Jerseyans overall have positive views of resources available in their local areas: four in five say local library services are good or excellent and three-fourths rate area parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities highly. Perceptions of library and park and recreational facilities are much less positive for low-income, minority, and other disadvantaged groups (Figure 5).
- Racial and ethnic tensions may contribute to lower reported well-being in local neighborhoods. Only one in ten New Jerseyans feels there is a lot of racial/ethnic tension in their town or city, but another 25% feel there is at least some tension. The same groups that give comparatively low ratings to their neighborhood in other aspects are also at least somewhat more likely to perceive higher levels of racial/ethnic tension in their local areas (Figure 6).
- Satisfaction with respondents' housing is also generally high, on average, across the state. Only 8% say they are not satisfied, 31% are somewhat satisfied, and 61% are very satisfied. Dissatisfaction is notably higher among low income, minority (especially black), and uninsured respondents (Figure 7).
- Half or more report that they are very or somewhat concerned about the quality of their water (59%) or air where they live (51%). Unlike responses to other Poll questions, however, these ratings are similar among the subgroups examined, with the exception that blacks are more likely to be very concerned about water and air quality (Figure 8).

Figure 1 | **Neighborhood Rating by Income**

How would you rate your neighborhood as a place to live?

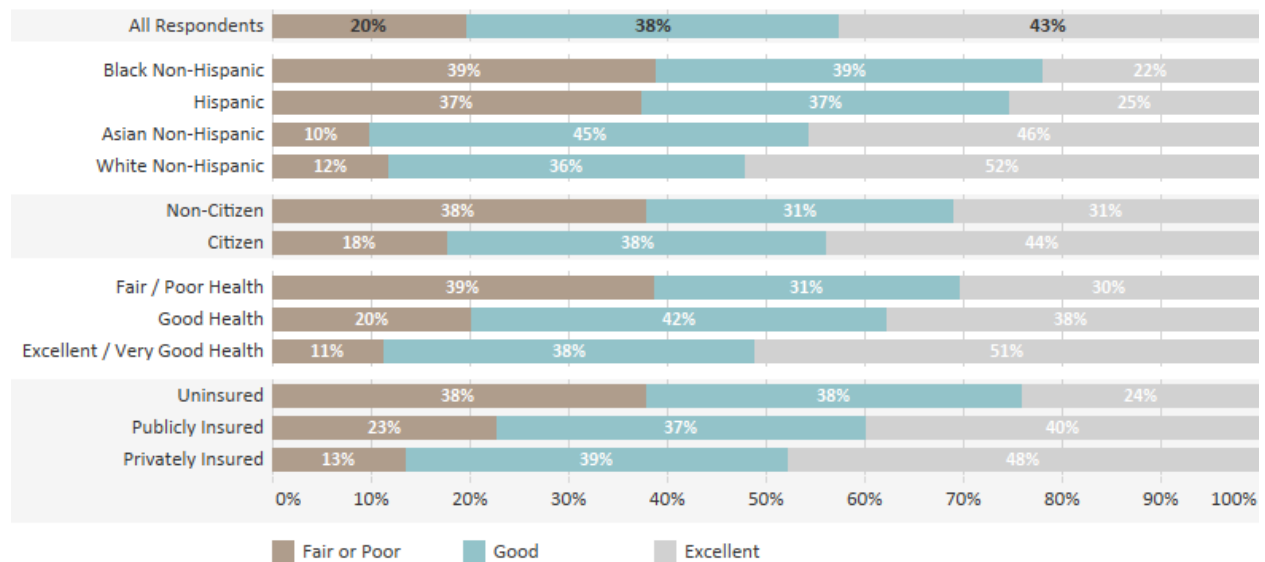


Note: "Fair or Poor" reflects the combination of two response categories, "Only Fair" and "Poor"
 Source: 2016 NJ Health and Well-Being Poll, Rutgers Center for State Health Policy

¹ Respondents are classified as "low income" if their family income is below 150% of the federal poverty level (\$36,450 for a family of four in 2016), "middle income" as 151%–400% of the poverty level (up to \$97,200 for a family of four) and "high income" above that level.

Figure 2 | **Neighborhood Rating by Race-Ethnicity, Citizenship, Health Status, and Health Insurance Coverage**

How would you rate your neighborhood as a place to live?



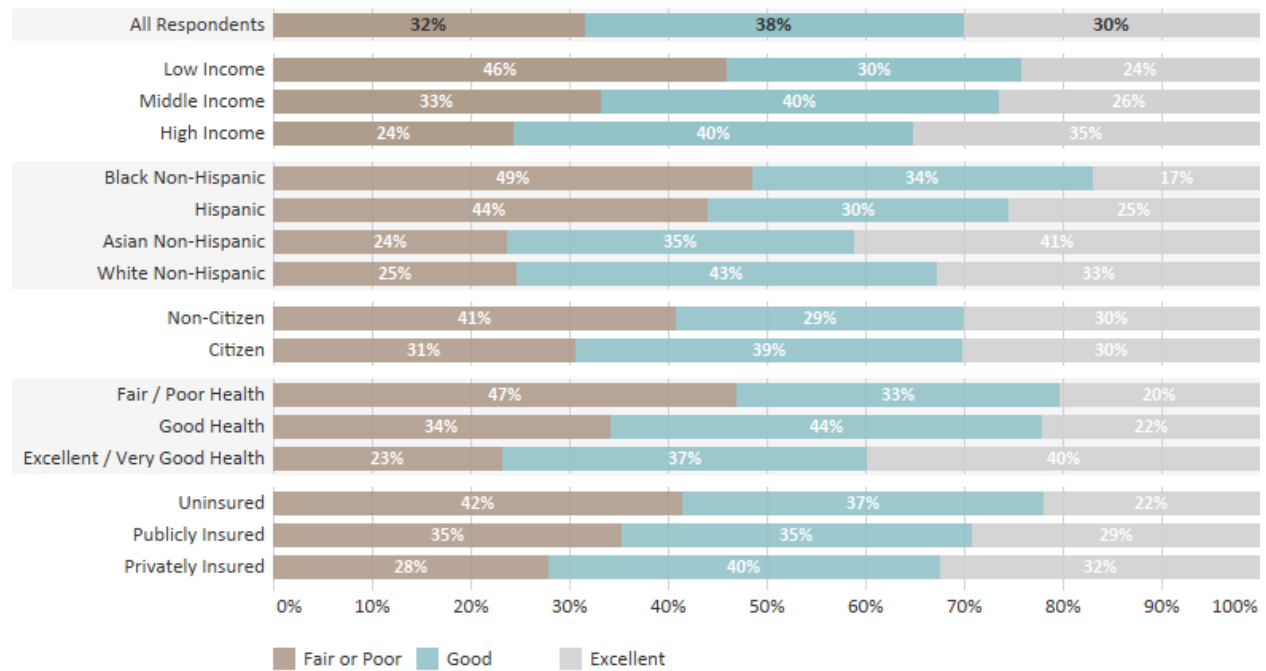
Note: "Fair or Poor" reflects the combination of two response categories, "Only Fair" and "Poor"
 Source: 2016 NJ Health and Well-Being Poll, Rutgers Center for State Health Policy

On the whole, New Jersey adults are very satisfied with their neighborhood: 42.5% rate their neighborhood as an excellent place to live, and another 37.9% say it is a good place to live. Only 19.6% rate their neighborhood as a fair or poor place to live. However, as with income, those in vulnerable groups report lower ratings:

- Black (non-Hispanic) and Hispanic respondents are more than three times as likely to rate their **neighborhood as a fair or poor place to live** than white or Asian (non-Hispanic) respondents. Differences in neighborhood ratings between U.S. citizens and non-citizens are nearly as large.
- Neighborhood rating is also associated with self-assessed health status and insurance coverage. New Jersey adults reporting fair or poor health are nearly twice as likely as those reporting good health and more than three times as likely as those reporting excellent or very good health to rate their neighborhood as a fair or poor place to live.
- Uninsured New Jersey adults are more than 1.5 times as likely as those with public health insurance (e.g., Medicaid, Medicare) and about three times as likely as those with private health insurance to rate their neighborhood as a fair or poor place to live.
- As shown in the Tables at the end of this brief (pages 10–13), other differences in neighborhood rating are also evident: adults with less education, who are unemployed, in fair or poor dental or mental health, who report a disability (self or family member living with them), living alone or with children under age 18, who are single, divorced, or widowed, age 30–49, who are female, or living in southeast New Jersey or urban areas are much more likely to rate their neighborhood as a fair or poor place to live.
- Variations in neighborhood rating are not evident (i.e., not statistically significant) among New Jersey adults reporting a chronic illness (self or family member living with them) or caring for an elderly, sick, or disabled family member.

Figure 3 | **Rating of Availability of Fresh Fruits/Vegetables in Neighborhood by Income, Race-Ethnicity, Citizenship, Health Status, and Health Insurance Coverage**

How would you rate your neighborhood as a place to buy fresh fruits and vegetables?



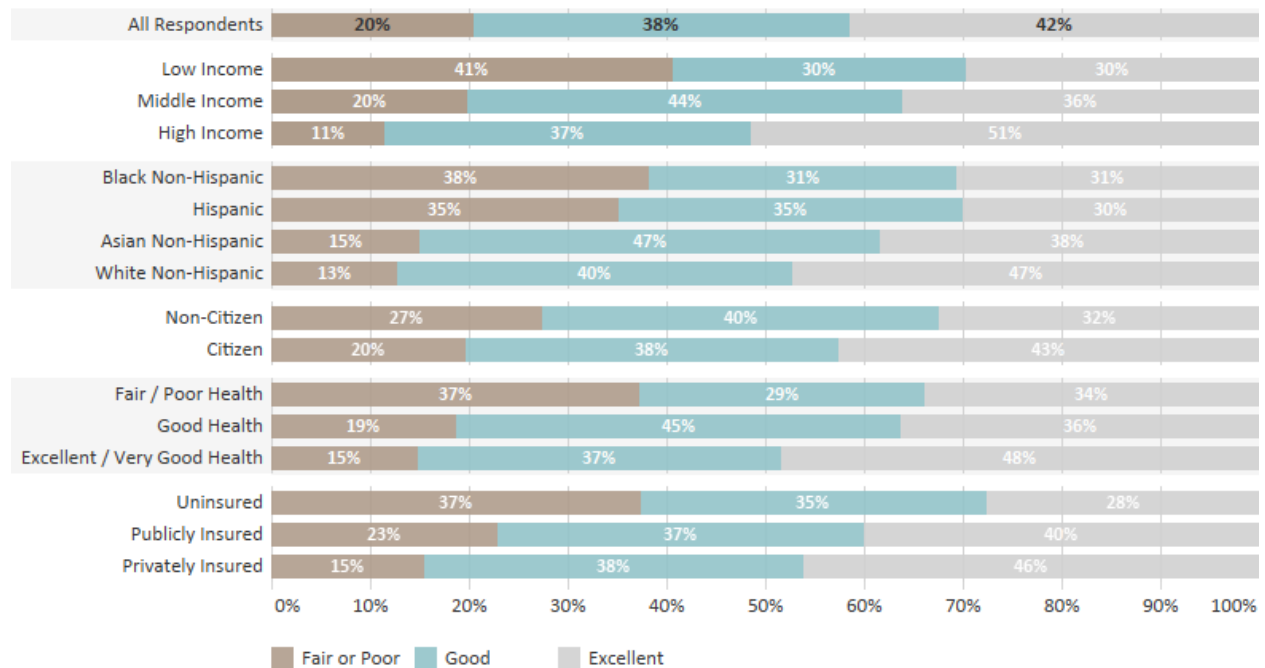
Note: "Fair or Poor" reflects the combination of two response categories, "Only Fair" and "Poor"
 Source: 2016 NJ Health and Well-Being Poll, Rutgers Center for State Health Policy

Statewide, 30.1% of New Jersey adults say their neighborhood is an excellent place to buy fresh fruits and vegetables and 38.3% say it is a good place. However, 31.6% say their neighborhood is a fair or poor place to buy fresh fruits and vegetables. As before, differences are reported among vulnerable groups:

- Low income adults are nearly 1.5 times as likely as middle income adults and nearly twice as likely as high income adults to rate their **neighborhood as a fair or poor place to buy fresh fruits and vegetables**.
- Black (non-Hispanic) and Hispanic respondents are about twice as likely to rate their neighborhood as a fair or poor place to buy fresh fruits and vegetables as white or Asian (non-Hispanic) respondents.
- Gaps in ratings of the availability of healthy foods of a similar magnitude are also evident among other vulnerable populations, including non-citizens, those rating their health as fair or poor, and the uninsured.
- As shown in the Tables at the end of this brief (pages 10–13), New Jersey adults with less education, in fair or poor dental or mental health, who report a chronic illness or disability (self or family living member there), living alone or with children under age 18, who are single, age 30–49, or female, or living in urban areas are much more likely to rate their neighborhood as a fair or poor place to buy fresh fruits and vegetables.
- There are no differences in fruit/vegetable availability among New Jersey adults for employment status, caring for an elderly, sick, or disabled family member, or for age or region of New Jersey.

Figure 4 | **Rating of Neighborhood as a Place to Walk or Exercise by Income, Race-Ethnicity, Citizenship, Health Status, and Health Insurance Coverage**

How would you rate your neighborhood as a place to walk or exercise?

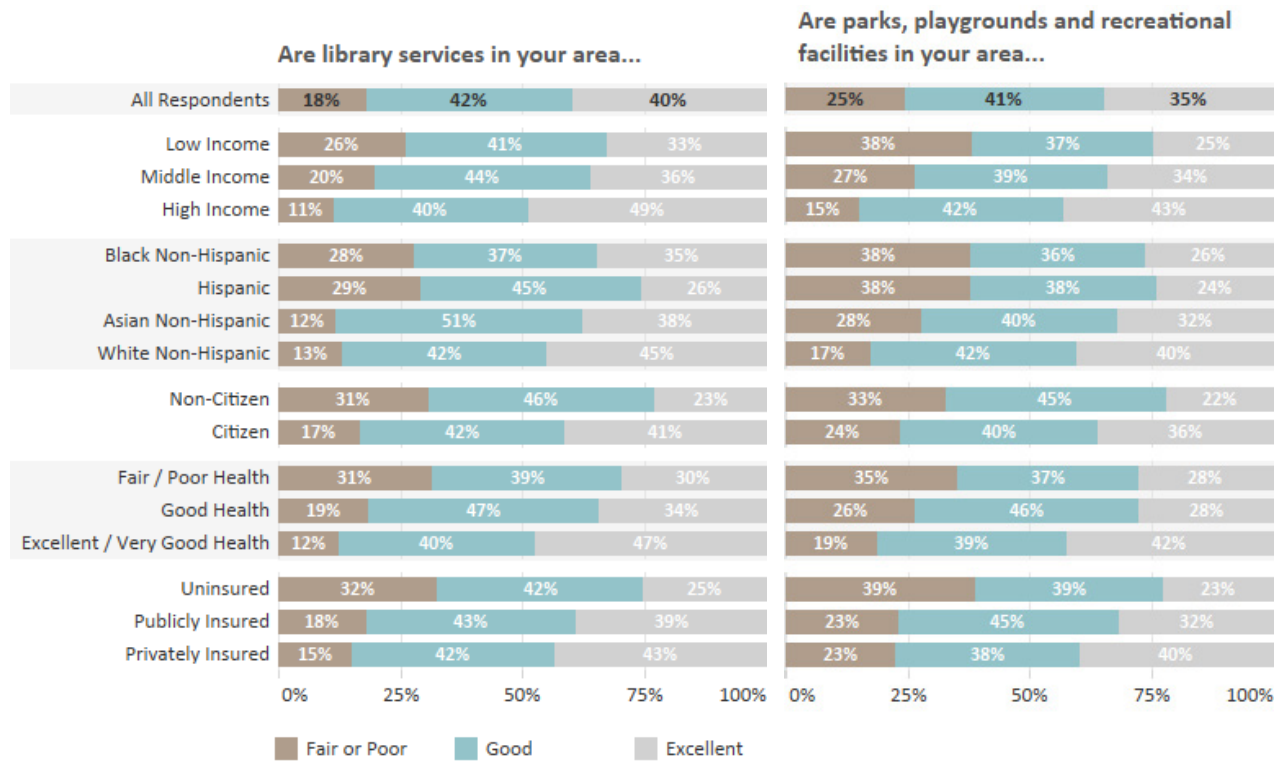


Note: "Fair or Poor" reflects the combination of two response categories, "Only Fair" and "Poor"
 Source: 2016 NJ Health and Well-Being Poll, Rutgers Center for State Health Policy

Overall, 41.5% of New Jersey adults say their neighborhood is an excellent place to walk or exercise and 38.1% say it is a good place. However, 20.5% say their neighborhood is a fair or poor place to walk or exercise. Again, differences are reported among vulnerable groups:

- Low income adults are about twice as likely as middle income adults and nearly four times as likely as high income adults to rate their **neighborhood as a fair or poor place to walk or exercise**.
- Black (non-Hispanic) and Hispanic respondents are about two to three times as likely to rate their neighborhood as a fair or poor place to walk or exercise as white or Asian (non-Hispanic) respondents.
- Gaps in ratings of their neighborhood as a fair or poor place to walk or exercise of a similar magnitude are also evident among other vulnerable populations, including non-citizens, those rating their health as fair or poor, and the uninsured.
- As shown in the Tables at the end of this brief (pages 10–13), adults with less education, who are unemployed, in fair or poor dental or mental health, who report a disability (self or family member living there), who are single or age 18–29 or 30–49, or living in southeast New Jersey or in urban areas are more likely to rate their neighborhood as a fair or poor place to walk or exercise.
- There are no differences in ratings of their neighborhood as a place to walk or exercise among New Jersey adults for employment status, who report a chronic illness (self or family member living there), caring for an elderly, sick, or disabled family member, or for family composition or gender.

Figure 5 | **Ratings of Town/City for Library Services and Parks-Playgrounds-Recreational Facilities by Income, Race-Ethnicity, Citizenship, Health Status, and Health Insurance Coverage**



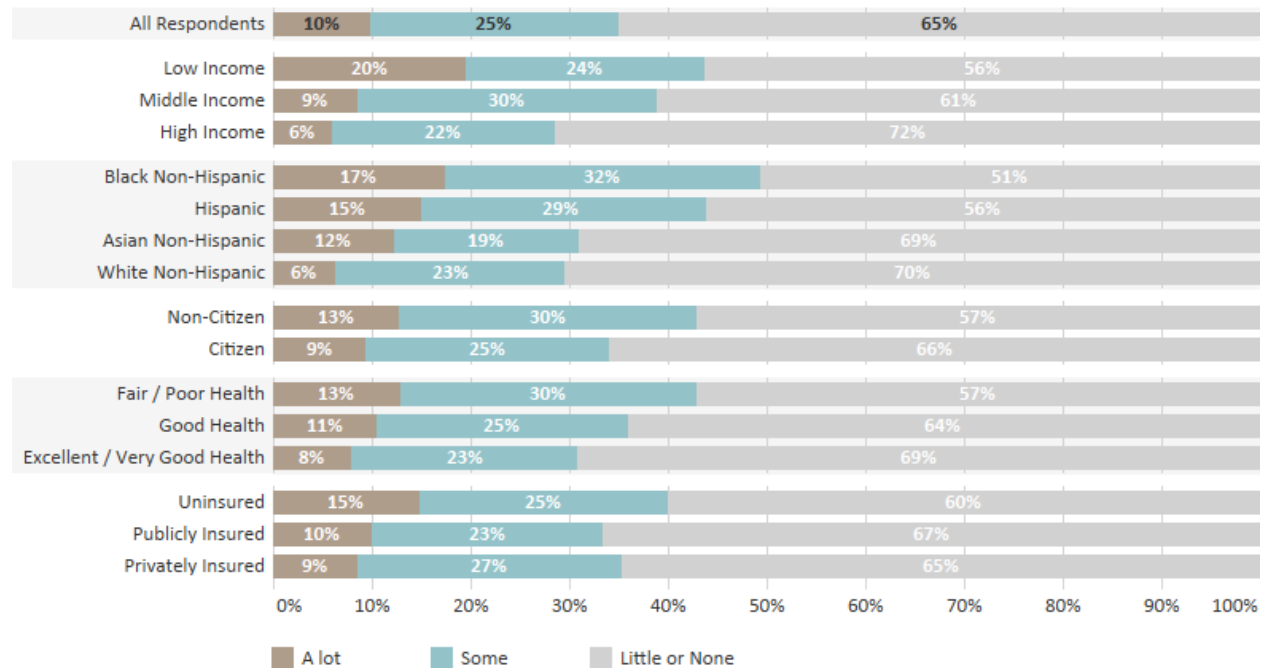
Note: "Fair or Poor" reflects the combination of two response categories, "Only Fair" and "Poor"
 Source: 2016 NJ Health and Well-Being Poll, Rutgers Center for State Health Policy

Overall, 39.6% of New Jersey adults say that library services in their community are excellent and 42.3% say they are good, while 18.1% say that library services are fair or poor. For parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities, 34.6% say their community is excellent and 40.8% say good, but 24.6% say fair or poor. Differences exist among vulnerable groups:

- Low income adults in New Jersey are more likely than middle income or high income adults to report that library services and parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities are fair or poor in their town or city.
- Black (non-Hispanic) and Hispanic respondents are more likely than white or Asian (non-Hispanic) respondents to report that library services and parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities are fair or poor in their town or city.
- Gaps in ratings of their town/city as a fair or poor place for library services and parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities of a similar magnitude are also evident among other vulnerable populations, including non-citizens, those rating their health as fair or poor, and the uninsured.
- As shown in the Tables at the end of this brief (pages 10–13), those with less education, in fair or poor dental or mental health, caring for an elderly, sick, or disabled family member, or living in southeast New Jersey or in urban areas are more likely to report that library services are fair or poor in their town or city. No differences in ratings of library services are evident for employment status, those who report a chronic illness or disability (self or family member living there), family composition, marital status, age, or gender.
- Other groups more likely to rate parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities as fair or poor include: those with less education, who are unemployed, in poor or fair dental or mental health, caring for an elderly, sick, or disabled family member, or living in urban areas. No differences are evident for those who report a chronic illness or disability (self or family member living there), family composition, marital status, age, gender, or region of New Jersey.

Figure 6 | **Rating of Town/City for Racial-Ethnic Tension by Income, Race-Ethnicity, Citizenship, Health Status, and Health Insurance Coverage**

How much racial or ethnic tension do you think there is in your town or city?



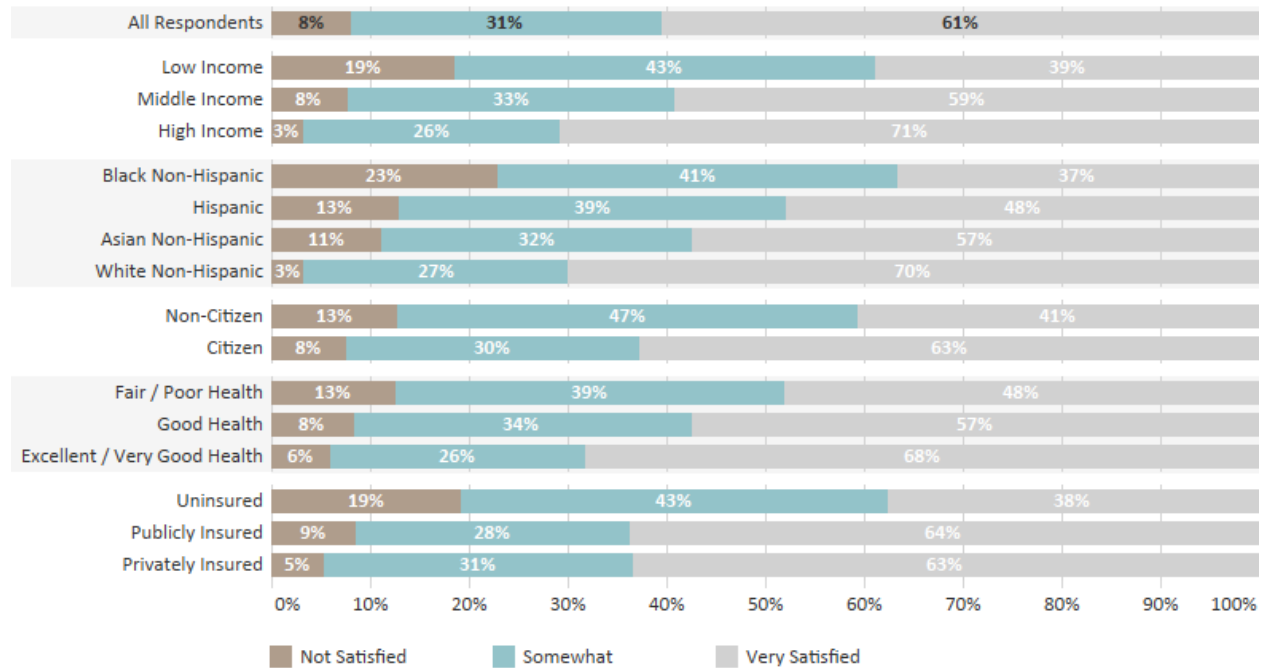
Note: "Little or None" reflects the combination of two response categories, "Just a Little" and "None At All"
 Source: 2016 NJ Health and Well-Being Poll, Rutgers Center for State Health Policy

Statewide, only 9.9% of respondents feel there is a lot of racial or ethnic tension in their town or city, but 25.2% say there is some tension. Nearly 2/3 (65.0%) feel there is little or no racial-ethnic tension in their town. Differences exist among vulnerable groups:

- Black (non-Hispanic) and Hispanic respondents are most likely to report a **lot of racial or ethnic tension in their town or city** compared to white or Asian (non-Hispanic) respondents.
- Low income adults in New Jersey are more than twice as likely as middle income adults and more than three times as likely as high income adults to report a lot of racial or ethnic tension.
- New Jersey adults reporting fair or poor health are also more likely than those reporting good health or excellent or very good health to report a lot of racial or ethnic tension in their town or city. Differences by citizenship and health insurance status were not evident (i.e., not statistically significant).
- As shown in the Tables at the end of this brief (pages 10–13), those who are unemployed, in fair or poor mental health, who report a disability (self or family member living there), who are single, age 18–29 or 30–49, or female, or living in suburban-low income or urban areas are more likely to report a lot of racial or ethnic tension in their town or city.
- There are no differences in reported racial-ethnic tension in their town or city among New Jersey adults for education level, in fair or poor dental health, who report a chronic illness (self or family member living there), caring for an elderly, sick, or disabled family member, or for family composition or region of New Jersey.

Figure 7 | **Satisfaction with Housing by Income, Race-Ethnicity, Citizenship, Health Status, and Health Insurance Coverage**

How satisfied are you with your current housing?

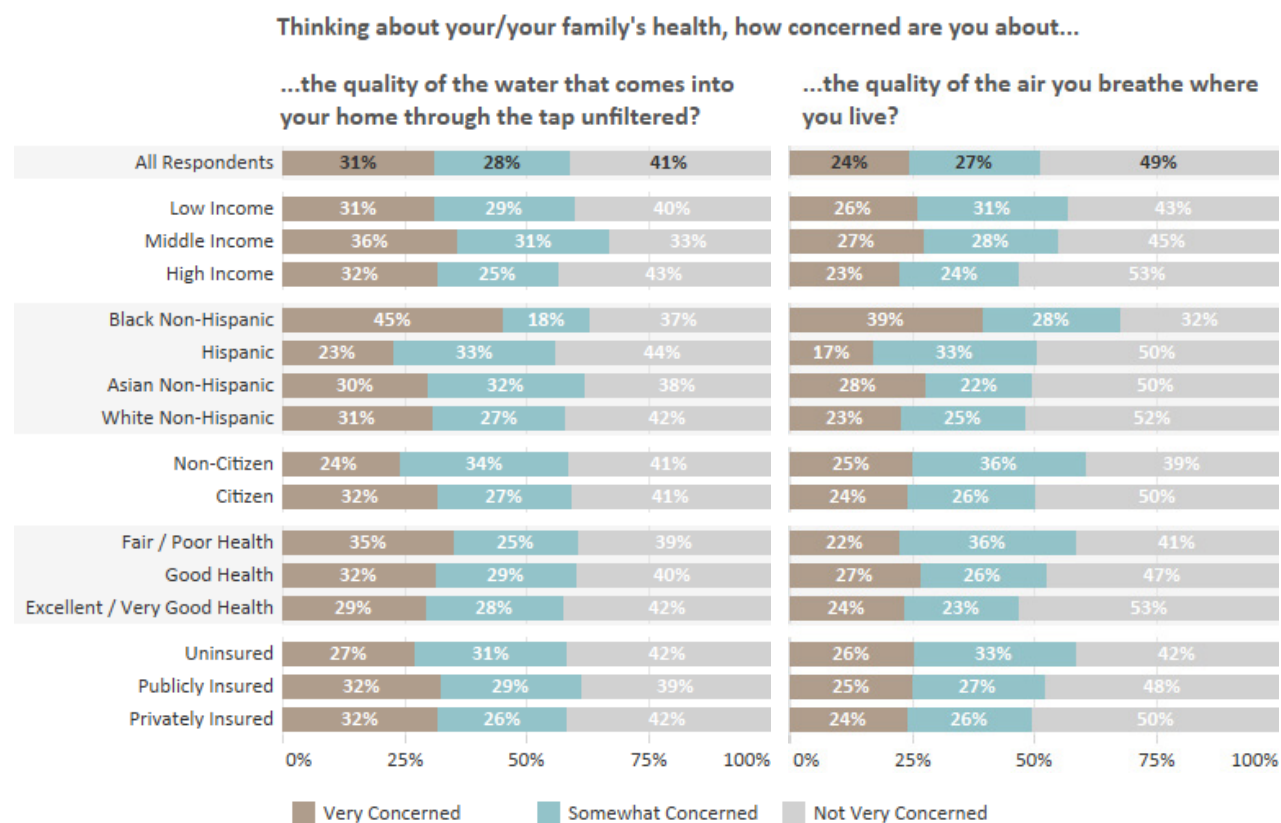


Source: 2016 NJ Health and Well-Being Poll, Rutgers Center for State Health Policy

Overall, 91.8% of New Jersey adults are very or somewhat satisfied with their current housing, while only 8.2% are not too or not at all satisfied. Differences exist among vulnerable groups:

- Low income adults are over twice as likely as middle income adults and nearly six times as likely as high income adults to be **not too satisfied or not at all satisfied with their housing**.
- Black (non-Hispanic) respondents are about twice as likely as Hispanic and Asian (non-Hispanic) respondents and about seven times as likely as White (non-Hispanic) respondents to be not too satisfied or not at all satisfied with their housing.
- Non-citizens, those rating their health as fair or poor, and the uninsured are also more likely to be not too or not at all satisfied with their current housing.
- As shown in the Tables at the end of this brief (pages 10–13), adults with less education, who are unemployed, in fair or poor dental or mental health, living alone or with children under age 18, who are single, divorced, or separated, or age 30–49, or living in suburban-low income or urban areas are more likely to be not too satisfied or not at all satisfied with their housing.
- There are no differences in ratings of housing satisfaction for those who report a chronic illness or disability (self or family living with them), caring for an elderly, sick, or disabled family member, or for gender or region of New Jersey.

Figure 8 | **Concern about Water and Air Quality by Income, Race-Ethnicity, Citizenship, Health Status, and Health Insurance Coverage**



Source: 2016 NJ Health and Well-Being Poll, Rutgers Center for State Health Policy

Statewide, 31.3% are very concerned and 27.8% are somewhat concerned about the quality of water in their home, while 40.9% are not very concerned. For quality of air where they live, 24.4% are very concerned and 26.7% are somewhat concerned, while 48.9% are not very concerned. Differences exist among vulnerable groups:

- Middle income adults are more likely than low or high income adults to be **very concerned about the quality of water in their home**. Concern about air quality does not differ by income.
- Black (non-Hispanic) respondents are 1.5–2 times more likely than the other racial-ethnic groups to be very concerned about the quality of water in their home and the air they breathe.
- Non-U.S. citizens in New Jersey are more likely than U.S. citizens to be somewhat concerned about the quality of the air they breathe. Concern about water quality does not differ by citizenship status.
- Adults reporting fair or poor health are more likely than those reporting good health or excellent or very good health to be somewhat concerned about the quality of the air they breathe. Concern about water quality does not differ by health status.
- Concerns about water and air quality do not differ by health insurance status.
- As shown in the Tables at the end of this brief (pages 10–13), other differences for water quality concerns include: adults with more education, in fair or poor dental health, who report a chronic illness or disability (self or family member living with them), caring for an elderly, sick, or disabled family member, age 30–64 (very-somewhat), or who are female or living in suburban-low income areas are more likely to be very concerned about the quality of water in their home. Concerns about water quality do not differ by employment status, mental health status, family composition, marital status, or region of New Jersey.
- Other differences for air quality concerns include: those in fair or poor dental health, age 30–64 (very-somewhat), who are female, or living in the north-east region of New Jersey (very-somewhat) or urban and suburban-low income areas are more likely to be very concerned about the quality of air they breathe. Concerns about air quality do not differ by education level, employment status, mental health status, chronic illness or disability (self or family

member living with them), caring for an elderly, sick, or disabled family member, family composition, or marital status.

About the New Jersey Health and Well-Being Poll

The Health & Well-Being Poll was developed in consultation with leading New Jersey philanthropies interested in improving the lives of all New Jersey residents. This Poll was funded by the Robert Wood John Foundation (rwjf.org) and conducted by Rutgers Center for State Health Policy (CSHP) (cshp.rutgers.edu) as part of its mission to inform, support, and stimulate sound and creative state health policy in New Jersey and around the nation. It is the first in a series of three annual polls that examine health and well-being in New Jersey.

This Poll is being led by Joel C. Cantor, ScD, CSHP Director. Cliff Zukin, PhD, Professor Emeritus, and Dawne

Mouzon, PhD, Assistant Professor at Rutgers' Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, serve as senior project consultants. The Project team also includes Susan Brownlee, PhD, CSHP Senior Research Manager, Jolene Chou, MPH, CSHP Senior Research Analyst, Margaret Koller, MS, CSHP Executive Director, and Michelle Kennedy, MPH, CSHP Research Analyst. This brief was prepared by Dr. Cantor, Dr. Brownlee, and Ms. Chou. The views expressed in this brief are solely those of the authors.

For more information, download the [project summary](#) available on our website.

Additional Data Tables

The following tables provide detailed tabulations of the poll measures described above. Statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) differences are shown in **bold**.

NJ Community Well-Being by Income and Race-Ethnicity

	Income			Race-Ethnicity			
	Low	Middle	High	White (non-Hispanic)	Black (non-Hispanic)	Hispanic	Asian (non-Hispanic)
Neighborhood as a place to live (% Fair or Poor)	43.1%	21.9%	8.1%	11.9%	38.8%	37.5%	9.6%
Neighborhood as a place to buy fresh fruits and vegetables (% Fair or Poor)	45.8%	33.2%	24.4%	24.7%	48.6%	44.0%	23.8%
Neighborhood as a place to walk or exercise (% Fair or Poor)	40.8%	19.9%	11.4%	12.8%	38.1%	35.4%	15.5%
Are library services in your area... (% Fair or Poor)	26.1%	19.8%	11.2%	13.1%	27.8%	29.2%	12.0%
Are parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities in your area... (% Fair or Poor)	38.3%	26.7%	15.3%	17.4%	37.9%	37.9%	27.7%
Racial or ethnic tension in your town or city (% A Lot)	19.4%	8.7%	6.1%	6.3%	17.4%	14.9%	12.5%
Satisfied with current housing (% Not Too/Not At All Satisfied)	18.5%	7.8%	3.3%	3.2%	22.8%	13.0%	10.8%
Concern about water quality in home (% Very Concerned)	31.2%	35.8%	31.8%	30.8%	45.2%	22.6%	29.8%
Concern about air quality you breathe (% Very Concerned)	26.3%	27.5%	22.6%	22.9%	39.5%	17.2%	27.7%

Respondents are classified as “low income” if their family income is below 150% of the federal poverty level (\$36,450 for a family of four in 2016), “middle income” as 151%–400% of the poverty level (up to \$97,200 for a family of four) and “high income” above that level.

Source: 2016 NJ Health and Well-Being Poll, Rutgers Center for State Health Policy; **BOLD** = $p < 0.05$

NJ Community Well-Being by Citizenship, Health Status, and Insurance Coverage

	U.S. Citizen		Health Status			Health Insurance		
	No	Yes	Excellent, Very Good	Good	Fair, Poor	Public	Private	Uninsured
Neighborhood as a place to live (% Fair or Poor)	37.9%	17.7%	11.4%	20.2%	38.6%	22.9%	13.4%	38.1%
Neighborhood as a place to buy fresh fruits and vegetables (% Fair or Poor)	40.9%	30.6%	23.3%	34.1%	47.0%	41.7%	27.9%	41.7%
Neighborhood as a place to walk or exercise (% Fair or Poor)	27.6%	19.7%	15.0%	18.7%	37.3%	22.9%	15.4%	37.2%
Are library services in your area... (% Fair or Poor)	30.9%	16.7%	12.2%	18.4%	31.6%	18.2%	14.9%	32.4%
Are parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities in your area... (% Fair or Poor)	32.7%	23.6%	19.0%	26.5%	35.2%	23.2%	22.5%	38.6%
Racial or ethnic tension in your town or city (% A Lot)	12.7%	9.3%	7.9%	10.6%	12.9%	10.2%	8.5%	14.8%
Satisfied with current housing (% Not Too/Not At All Satisfied)	12.9%	7.6%	5.9%	8.5%	12.4%	8.4%	5.5%	19.2%
Concern about water quality in home (% Very Concerned)	24.1%	31.9%	29.3%	31.7%	35.1%	32.3%	31.9%	26.9%
Concern about air quality you breathe (% Very Concerned)	25.2%	24.3%	23.5%	27.0%	22.4%	25.3%	24.0%	25.6%

Source: 2016 NJ Health and Well-Being Poll, Rutgers Center for State Health Policy; **BOLD** = $p < 0.05$

NJ Community Well-Being by Age Group, Gender, and Family Composition

	Age				Gender		Family Composition		
	18–29	30–49	50–64	65+	Male	Female	Alone	2+ Adults, No Kids	Kids in Household
Neighborhood as a place to live (% Fair or Poor)	19.8%	26.4%	14.6%	13.5%	16.8%	22.3%	24.3%	15.5%	22.1%
Neighborhood as a place to buy fresh fruits and vegetables (% Fair or Poor)	31.4%	34.8%	29.0%	29.4%	28.1%	34.8%	31.6%	27.5%	35.2%
Neighborhood as a place to walk or exercise (% Fair or Poor)	25.7%	23.7%	17.7%	13.7%	19.3%	21.5%	21.2%	17.9%	22.1%
Are library services in your area... (% Fair or Poor)	18.8%	20.2%	16.9%	15.6%	16.8%	18.9%	19.3%	16.2%	18.4%
Are parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities in your area... (% Fair or Poor)	23.9%	27.4%	26.1%	19.5%	24.9%	24.3%	24.6%	22.2%	26.9%
Racial or ethnic tension in your town or city (% A Lot)	12.9%	12.6%	7.3%	5.9%	7.0%	12.5%	8.8%	8.4%	11.0%
Satisfied with current housing (% Not Too/Not At All Satisfied)	7.6%	11.8%	9.1%	2.2%	8.5%	7.7%	10.5%	5.3%	10.2%
Concern about water quality in home (% Very Concerned)	25.4%	31.7%	37.2%	30.0%	26.7%	35.5%	32.0%	32.1%	29.6%
Concern about air quality you breathe (% Very Concerned)	20.3%	25.4%	29.1%	22.8%	21.2%	27.4%	24.5%	25.0%	23.6%

Source: 2016 NJ Health and Well-Being Poll, Rutgers Center for State Health Policy; **BOLD** = p<0.05

NJ Community Well-Being by Region and Urban/Suburban/Rural

	Region of New Jersey*					Density-Income of Zip Code**			
	SE	SW	CE	CNW	NE	Rural	Suburb-Low Income	Suburb-High Income	Urban
Neighborhood as a place to live (% Fair or Poor)	32.8%	16.3%	16.8%	15.6%	22.4%	8.6%	27.0%	7.3%	42.2%
Neighborhood as a place to buy fresh fruits and vegetables (% Fair or Poor)	28.4%	34.7%	30.6%	26.5%	33.9%	24.5%	36.0%	22.5%	48.5%
Neighborhood as a place to walk or exercise (% Fair or Poor)	28.4%	16.3%	16.8%	14.4%	26.0%	13.7%	23.8%	8.6%	39.4%
Are library services in your area... (% Fair or Poor)	28.8%	15.7%	13.6%	18.0%	19.7%	17.1%	14.9%	10.1%	36.4%
Are parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities in your area... (% Fair or Poor)	34.3%	22.2%	22.8%	20.3%	27.1%	21.2%	24.1%	14.7%	43.0%
Racial or ethnic tension in your town or city (% A Lot)	12.1%	9.3%	10.0%	8.6%	10.3%	6.0%	15.4%	7.0%	12.2%
Satisfied with current housing (% Not Too/Not At All Satisfied)	9.1%	8.4%	6.4%	7.7%	9.2%	4.3%	11.0%	3.9%	15.3%
Concern about water quality in home (% Very Concerned)	37.3%	31.5%	28.4%	33.5%	30.9%	29.0%	40.2%	28.8%	33.7%
Concern about air quality you breathe (% Very Concerned)	19.4%	24.6%	25.7%	21.5%	25.9%	18.3%	28.6%	22.6%	29.9%

* SE=Southeast (Cape May, Cumberland, Salem, and Atlantic counties), SW=Southwest (Gloucester, Camden, and Burlington counties), CE=Central East (Ocean, Monmouth, and Middlesex counties), CNW=Central Northwest (Mercer, Somerset, Morris, Hunterdon, Warren, and Sussex counties), NE=North-east (Passaic, Bergen, Union, Essex, and Hudson counties).

** Rural=<1000 density, all incomes; Suburb-Low Income=1000–7999 density, income <\$71,637; Suburb-High Income=1000–7999 density, income ≥\$71,637; Urban=8000+ density, all incomes.

Source: 2016 NJ Health and Well-Being Poll, Rutgers Center for State Health Policy; **BOLD** = p<0.05

NJ Community Well-Being by Education and Employment

	Education				Employment			
	< High School	High School Grad, GED	Some College, Vocat. School	College Grad+	Working	Looking for Work	Retired	Other Not Working
Neighborhood as a place to live (% Fair or Poor)	37.0%	25.9%	19.7%	8.6%	19.1%	30.5%	13.5%	23.7%
Neighborhood as a place to buy fresh fruits and vegetables (% Fair or Poor)	35.8%	32.4%	39.0%	23.3%	31.0%	36.4%	28.6%	36.8%
Neighborhood as a place to walk or exercise (% Fair or Poor)	26.5%	25.1%	21.6%	14.0%	19.2%	28.8%	14.8%	28.1%
Are library services in your area... (% Fair or Poor)	24.1%	22.5%	20.6%	10.0%	17.5%	23.4%	16.9%	17.2%
Are parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities in your area... (% Fair or Poor)	31.1%	33.0%	24.7%	15.0%	23.3%	37.9%	21.2%	27.3%
Racial or ethnic tension in your town or city (% A Lot)	12.4%	9.6%	12.1%	7.3%	11.1%	17.8%	4.4%	6.0%
Satisfied with current housing (% Not Too/Not At All Satisfied)	13.2%	10.4%	8.0%	4.4%	8.8%	16.5%	3.1%	5.9%
Concern about water quality in home (% Very Concerned)	16.1%	34.0%	36.9%	29.5%	31.6%	27.1%	31.1%	33.3%
Concern about air quality you breathe (% Very Concerned)	20.3%	27.2%	23.7%	23.8%	27.0%	23.5%	22.0%	18.5%

Source: 2016 NJ Health and Well-Being Poll, Rutgers Center for State Health Policy; **BOLD** = p<0.05

NJ Community Well-Being by Dental Health, Mental Health, and Chronic Illness or Disability (Self or Family Living With Them)

	Dental Health			Mental Health			Chronic Illness (self, family living with them)		Disability	
	Excellent, Very Good	Good	Fair, Poor	Excellent or Very Good	Good	Fair, Poor	No	Yes	No	Yes
Neighborhood as a place to live (% Fair, Poor)	12.6%	16.7%	35.8%	13.0%	22.8%	42.6%	20.4%	18.9%	17.0%	27.6%
Neighborhood as a place to buy fresh fruits and vegetables (% Fair or Poor)	21.3%	32.7%	47.0%	26.2%	36.4%	44.4%	28.1%	35.3%	28.7%	40.5%
Neighborhood as a place to walk or exercise (% Fair or Poor)	13.5%	20.0%	33.4%	15.3%	21.5%	43.4%	19.7%	21.5%	18.4%	27.0%
Are library services in your area... (% Fair or Poor)	10.7%	18.7%	29.2%	14.1%	19.8%	32.5%	17.1%	18.9%	16.8%	21.6%
Are parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities in your area... (% Fair or Poor)	17.8%	24.9%	35.7%	19.0%	27.4%	44.0%	25.5%	23.8%	23.2%	28.9%
Racial or ethnic tension in your town or city (% A Lot)	7.9%	11.0%	11.1%	8.3%	9.7%	17.7%	9.3%	10.4%	8.9%	12.7%
Satisfied with current housing (% Not Too/Not At All Satisfied)	3.8%	8.5%	14.6%	5.8%	9.0%	16.3%	9.2%	7.1%	7.5%	10.1%
Concern about water quality in home (% Very Concerned)	26.4%	32.7%	37.5%	30.1%	30.5%	39.6%	25.8%	37.0%	29.3%	37.3%
Concern about air quality you breathe (% Very Concerned)	21.0%	27.9%	25.2%	23.1%	26.5%	25.2%	21.8%	27.2%	24.3%	25.0%

Source: 2016 NJ Health and Well-Being Poll, Rutgers Center for State Health Policy; **BOLD** = p<0.05

NJ Community Well-Being by Caring for an Elderly, Sick, or Disabled Family Member, and Marital Status

	Caring for an Elderly, Sick, or Disabled Family Member		Marital Status			
	Yes	No	Married or Living with Partner	Single, Never Married	Widowed	Divorced or Separated
Neighborhood as a place to live (% Fair or Poor)	21.4%	19.2%	15.3%	27.7%	15.3%	24.7%
Neighborhood as a place to buy fresh fruits and vegetables (% Fair or Poor)	30.0%	31.9%	28.4%	37.8%	31.0%	32.3%
Neighborhood as a place to walk or exercise (% Fair or Poor)	25.4%	19.4%	17.0%	28.7%	15.9%	19.1%
Are library services in your area... (% Fair or Poor)	23.3%	16.9%	15.5%	21.9%	17.9%	21.8%
Are parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities in your area... (% Fair or Poor)	32.0%	23.0%	24.0%	26.1%	21.2%	26.1%
Racial or ethnic tension in your town or city (% A Lot)	12.1%	9.4%	8.0%	13.9%	9.7%	10.0%
Satisfied with current housing (% Not Too/Not At All Satisfied)	9.8%	7.9%	5.4%	13.1%	5.6%	12.0%
Concern about water quality in home (% Very Concerned)	40.0%	29.4%	31.9%	28.4%	36.6%	31.9%
Concern about air quality you breathe (% Very Concerned)	28.3%	23.7%	25.4%	22.1%	21.4%	27.2%

Source: 2016 NJ Health and Well-Being Poll, Rutgers Center for State Health Policy; **BOLD** = $p < 0.05$

How the Survey Was Conducted

The 2016 New Jersey Health and Well-Being Poll was designed and analyzed by researchers at the Rutgers University Center for State Health Policy, fielded by Abt SRBI, Inc., and informed by six focus groups conducted in north, central, and south New Jersey with immigrants and varying age and racial-ethnic groups. The poll was conducted in English and Spanish from October 24 through November 22, 2016 with a sample of 1,202 respondents. The sample is designed to be representative

of New Jersey adults. Interviews were conducted by landline ($n=420$) and cell phone ($n=782$). The data were weighted to match demographic and telephone status parameters and account for the higher probability of selection for respondents who had both a landline and cell phone. The margin of sampling error for weighted estimates based on the full sample is plus or minus 3.4% (subgroup results have higher margins of error). For full wording of poll questions and topline distributions of variables used in this Brief, download the [topline report](#). Additional details about the survey method can be found in the [methodology report](#).

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