

## NEEDS ASSESSMENT

2005-2006

Perth Amboy is an urban school district. It is a city in Middlesex County, known as the "City by the Bay". Perth Amboy was formed by Royal Charter on August 4, 1718, within various townships. Perth Amboy was chartered as a city by an Act of the New Jersey Legislature on December 21, 1784. Perth Amboy Township was incorporated as one of New Jersey's initial 104 townships on February 21, 1798. The township was absorbed by Perth Amboy city on April 8, 1844. Perth Amboy and South Amboy, across the Raritan River, are collectively referred to as "The Amboy's". Signage for Exit 11 on the New Jersey Turnpike refers to "The Amboy's" as a destination. The Amboy's are the northern limit of the area informally referred to as "the Bayshore". (1)

DEMOGRAPHICS (1)

As of the 2000 census, there were 47,303 people, 14,562 households, and 10,761 families residing in the city. The population density was 9,892.0 people per square mile (3,820.9/km<sup>2</sup>). There were 15,236 housing units at an average density of 3,186.2/sq mi (1,230.7/km<sup>2</sup>). The racial makeup of the city was 46.41% White, 10.04% African American, 0.70% Native American, 1.53% Asian, 0.13% Pacific Islander, 35.59% from other races, and 5.61% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 69.83% of the population. Most of the Hispanics in Perth Amboy are of Puerto Rican or Dominican descent but all Latino nationalities are represented in the city.

There were 14,562 households, out of which 40.3% had children under the age of 18, 44.6% were married couples living together, 21.0% had a female householder with no husband present, and 26.1% were non-families. About 20.6% of all households were made up of individuals and 8.8% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 3.20 and the average family size was 3.63.

In the city, the population was spread out with 28.5% under the age of 18, 11.4% from 18 to 24, 31.6% from 25 to 44, 18.3% from 45 to 64, and 10.2% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 31 years. For every 100 females there were 98.2 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 94.8 males.

The median income for a household in the city was \$37,608, and the median income for a family was \$40,740. Males had a median income of \$29,399 versus \$21,954 for females. The per capita income for the city was \$14,989. About 14.3% of families and 17.6% of the population were below the poverty line, including 24.1% of those under age 18 and 12.8% of those age 65 or over.

In 2000, 27.79% of Perth Amboy residents identified themselves as being of Puerto Rican ancestry, which is the fifth highest concentration of Puerto Ricans on the U.S. mainland within municipalities with 1,000 or more residents identifying their ancestry. In the same census, 18.81% of Perth Amboy residents identified themselves as being of Dominican ancestry, which is the third highest concentration in the country after Haverstraw, New York and Lawrence, Massachusetts.

(\*Unofficial sources indicate that approximately 14% of the population is undocumented.)

## PERTH AMBOY CAREERS (1)

Among the most common occupations in Perth Amboy are: production, transportation, and material moving occupations (28%); sales and office occupations (22%); and management, professional, and related occupations (16%). Approximately 77% of workers in Perth Amboy work for companies, 10% work for the government, and 3% are self-employed.

## POPULAR PERTH AMBOY JOBS (1)

Currently, the most commonly listed Perth Amboy jobs are for market researchers, project managers, occupational therapists, administrative assistants, physical therapists, and sales associates.

## PERTH AMBOY INDUSTRIES (1)

The leading industries in Perth Amboy are manufacturing (20%); educational, health and social services (14%); and retail trade (11%). According to Simply Hired, job listings indicate that the following industries in Perth Amboy are hiring the most workers: pharmaceutical preparation manufacturing, personal safety equipment manufacturing, surgical appliance and supplies manufacturing, surgical and medical instrument manufacturing, and miscellaneous information services.

## PERTH AMBOY / JOB SALARIES (\*\*)

According to government data, the average salary for jobs in Perth Amboy, New Jersey is \$25,676, and the median income of households in Perth Amboy is \$37,608.

### PERTH AMBOY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Perth Amboy has an unemployment rate of 10.8%, compared the national average of 5.8%.

According to our Perth Amboy Trends data(2), the number of Perth Amboy jobs has decreased by 40% since September 2006.



## PERTH AMBOY EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

### Population of Perth Amboy

Total population	47,303
Male	49.55%
Female	50.45%
Median age	31.2

### Perth Amboy Housing

Owner-occupied homes	40.5%
Median cost of a home	\$126,200
Median mortgage payment	\$748
Renter-occupied homes	59.5%
Vacant housing	4.4%
Median monthly rent	\$732

### Average Income

Median for all male full-time	\$29,399
Median for all female full-time	\$21,954

### Household Income

Less than \$10,000	11%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	8%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	14%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	14%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	17%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	19%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	9%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	7%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	1%
\$200,000 or more	1%

In January of 2006 a needs assessment (appendix 1) was administered to the parents of preschool children in Perth Amboy. The district surveyed 1,143 preschool age families, and of those, 927 families responded. They were asked several questions addressing an array of issues including, but not limited to, family support, adult /family issues, workshop topics, availability and volunteering. The tables below show the frequency with which families identified different issues/needs as being of concern:

Below are the findings for:

Issues / Needs	Frequency				
	Always	Often	Seldom	Never	N/A
Concern for safety of neighborhood	13	15	135	510	76
Concern for quality of housing	9	16	78	545	102
Need help with monthly rent/mortgage	23	25	88	533	85
Need more family living space	8	28	74	524	116
Need help with gas/Electric/Water	31	24	98	526	71

Need help with telephone	8	14	80	554	94
Concern / eviction/homelessness	5	3	27	614	101
Recreational needs	17	30	103	484	88
Need for Legal Services	8	14	40	566	122
Need for counseling	6	12	53	565	114
Need for food resources	5	10	36	530	126

	Always	Often	Seldom	Never	N/A
Attending Adult School/HS Diploma/English	46	51	40	397	216
Attending Saturday Morning School	55	43	49	331	272
Obtaining Library Membership & Services	16	15	28	466	225
Condition of Family Health	20	19	95	497	119
Access to Health care/ins/ NJ Kidcare	37	29	52	497	135
Access to prescription drugs	20	25	41	515	149
Physical disability of family member	12	10	38	532	158
Daily nutritional needs	9	8	40	553	140
Child Care	20	28	77	498	127
Depression	8	20	61	522	139
Other mental health issues	5	3	20	543	179

#### Adult Education

Would you like to learn how to read and write in:	Yes	No
Spanish	104	229
English	314	245

What assistance do you need in order to accomplish goals for your family?

	Yes	No
Need childcare?	149	499
Need translation?	236	422
Need transportation?	162	467
Attend meetings if childcare is provided?	488	136
Be willing to volunteer at school?	429	215
Types of skills/talents can you share	0	0

What workshop topics would you like to discuss?

	Yes	No
Positive Behavior Support (discipline)	353	214
Stress	265	290
Anger Management	246	333
Family Communication	313	235
Communication with your child's school	384	231
Nutrition	268	320
Time Management	243	328
Math	228	330
Science	196	343
Literacy	199	327
Parenting Skills	307	266
Other:	0	0

Availability, time and location/ When would you attend?

Availability	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	
	258	236	237	210	256	
Time of Day	Morning	Afternoon	Evening			
	180	183	314			
Location for workshops	Cruz	St. Mary	McGinnis	Ceres	Richardson	Flynn
	286	241	32	30	33	27

Based on these results the CPIS of Early Childhood Program determined which areas of concern needed more attention. It appeared from the data that the majority of the families felt safe in their neighborhoods and required little to no services for basic living needs. The families that provided their contact information and needed assistance with these needs were made known to the social work staff (the CPIS received verbal permission from the parent). The staff was provided with availability of resources to assist these families. The social workers then provided the families with referrals and resources to address these needs. Parents who requested assistance with adult school services were referred to the district “Even Start Program”, which provides literacy services to parents who meet the federal poverty guidelines. As a result of the survey, other parents received ESL classes, tutoring for their children, and educational classes that addressed daily living issues.

Various workshops facilitated by the CPIS and social workers of the Early Childhood Department were used to address the five categories for which parents indicated the highest need for assistance. Although the data indicates that over half of our population did not need English translation to attend workshops, the reverse was true when parents were polled verbally by social workers, teachers, and paraprofessionals. Therefore, in order to reach non-English speakers, the workshops were held in both Spanish and English. To address those parents who were not able to attend these workshops, preschool parents were also supplied with a list of district-wide parent workshops.

(Appendix 2)

Compiled by Iris Martinez-Campbell, LCSW, MSW  
Community Parent Involvement Specialist  
Perth Amboy Early Childhood Department

- 1 2000 Census
- 2 Perth Amboy Trends Publication
- \* Unofficial sources
- \*\*<http://www.epodunk.com>
- Appendix 1 survey
- Appendix 2 District workshops from other schools

PERTH AMBOY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
March  
PARENT WORKSHOPS/ACTIVITIES

MR. JOHN M. RODECKER  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS  
178 BARRACKS STREET  
PERTH AMBOY, NJ 08861  
PHONE: 732-376-6201  
FAX: 732-376-6196



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT  
THE PARENT COORDINATOR AT YOUR SCHOOL OR CALL  
THE OFFICE OF PARENT INVOLVEMENT AT 732-376-6291.

ESCUELAS PÚBLICAS DE PERTH AMBOY  
ACTIVIDADES/TALLERES DEL MES DE  
Marzo

MR. JOHN M. RODECKER  
SUPERINTENDENTE DE ESCUELAS  
178 de la Calle BARRACKS  
PERTH AMBOY, NJ 08861  
Teléfono: 732-376-6201  
FAX: 732-376-6196



PARA MAS INFORMACIÓN, POR FAVOR DE PONERSE EN  
CONTACTO CON SU  
COORDINADOR DE PADRES EN SU ESCUELA O LLAMEN A  
LA OFICINA DE PADRES PARTICIPADORES AL 732-376-6291.



# PERTH AMBOY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## PARENT WORKSHOPS/ACTIVITIES

### March 2006

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PRESENTER</u>	<u>TIME</u>
McGinnis	Friday, March 3	School Leadership Council Meeting	SLC Committee	9AM-12 Noon
McGinnis	Monday, March 6	Restructuring Parent Meeting at Shull School	Mr. John M. Rodecker	6:00 PM
McGinnis	Tuesday, March 7	PTO Meeting	PTO Committee	6:30 PM
McGinnis	Tuesday, March 28	PTO Student of the Month Awards	PTO Committee	6:30 PM
Shull	Wednesday, March 1	SLC	SLC Committee	3:15 PM
Shull	Wednesday, March 1	Family Math		6:30-830 PM
Shull	Monday, March 6	Restructuring Parent Meeting at Shull School	Mr. John M. Rodecker	6:00 PM
Shull	Wednesday, March 8	Family Math	J. Sabine/C. Plata	6:30-8:30 PM
Shull	Wednesday, March 15	Family Math	J. Sabine/C. Plata	6:30-8:30 PM
Shull	Tuesday, March 21	Rosa Parks Assemblies	Victor Dudka	8:40 AM & 9:40 AM
Shull	<b>Wednesday, March 22</b>	Rosa Parks Assemblies	Victor Dudka	8:40 AM & 9:40 AM
Shull	Wednesday, March 22	Family Math	J. Sabine/C. Plata	6:30-8:30 PM
Flynn	Wednesday, March 1	SLC	SLC Committee	4:00 PM
Flynn	Monday, March 6	District Parent Meeting at Shull School for 4 <sup>th</sup> thru 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	<b>Mr. John M. Rodecker</b>	6:00 PM
Flynn	Wednesday, March 8	Parent Workshop	<b>J. Rendeiro &amp; L.Cohen</b>	5:30-7:00 PM
Flynn	Thursday, March 9	Family Math Grades 3 & 4	<b>Sheryl Flamm &amp; Barbara Sultan</b>	6:00-7:30 PM
Flynn	Friday, March 17	Home School Parent	Breakfast, Leonore Roige	8-11:00 AM
Flynn	Wednesday, March 29	Family Fitness Night Grade 4	Jenny Cornejo/Linda Ryan/Richard Gardella/Thomas Babyak	6-7:30 PM
Ceres	Wednesday, March 1	SLC	SLC Committee	4:00 PM
Ceres	Monday, March 6	District Parent Meeting at Shull School for 4 <sup>th</sup> thru 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	<b>Mr. John M. Rodecker</b>	6:00 PM
Ceres	Wednesday, March 8	EPIC Workshop at Patten	<b>L. Richardson/L.M. Cruz</b>	6-8 PM
Ceres	Friday, March 10	Home School Relations Committee Meeting	HSR Committee	8:00 AM
Ceres	Wednesday, March 15	EPIC Workshop at Patten	L. Richardson/L.M. Cruz	6-8 PM

Ceres	Wednesday, March 22	EPIC Workshop at Patten	L. Richardson/L.M. Cruz	6-8 PM
Ceres	Wednesday, March 29	EPIC Workshop at Patten	L. Richardson/L.M. Cruz	6-8 PM
Patten	Saturday, March 4	SMFS	I. Cortez	9:00-11:30 AM
Patten	Monday, March 6	Home School Relations	D. Kahan / T. Wechter	8:00- 8:30 AM
Patten	Wednesday, March 8	School Leadership Council	M. Bredehoft	3:15 PM
Patten	Wednesday, March 8	EPIC Parenting Workshop	L. Richardson/L.M. Cruz	6-8 PM
Patten	Thursday, March 9	Family Fitness (Grades K,1,2)	Physical Education Staff	5:30-7:00 PM
Patten	Saturday, March 11	SMFS	I. Cortez	9:00-11:30 AM
Patten	Saturday, March 11	SMFS Advisory Board	I. Cortez	9:30 AM
Patten	Wednesday, March 15	Nutrition Committee	D. Watson / L. Kennedy	8:00-8:30 AM
Patten	Wednesday, March 15	EPIC Parenting Workshop	L. Richardson/L.M. Cruz	6-8 PM
Patten	Saturday, March 18	SMFS	I. Cortez	9:00-11:30 AM
Patten	Monday, March 20	Home School Relations	D. Kahan / T. Wechter	8:00- 8:30 AM
Patten	Wednesday, March 22	PTA Exec. Board Meeting	J. Caga	4:00 PM
Patten	Wednesday, March 22	EPIC Parenting Workshop	L. Richardson/L.M. Cruz	6-8 PM
Patten	Tuesday, March 28	Parent Workshop	I. Bilbow/L. Richardson	6-8 PM
Patten	Wednesday, March 29	EPIC Parenting Workshop	L. Richardson/L.M. Cruz	6-8 PM
Richardson	Wednesday, March 1	SLC Meeting	Committee Members	6:00PM
Richardson	Thursday, March 2	ADHD Workshop	C. Arroyo/L. Nagy	6-8 PM
Richardson	Wednesday, March 3	Family Night Out	Committee Members	6-8 PM
Richardson	Monday, March 6	Intro. to Computers	D. Varela	6-8 PM
Richardson	Tuesday, March 7	Adult ESL Classes	B. Struhala/H.Laor/L. Apisa	6:30-8:30 PM
Richardson	Tuesday, March 7	Writing Workshop	C. Lawrence	6:00-8:00 PM
Richardson	Wednesday, March 8	Intro. To Computers	D. Varela	6-8 PM
Richardson	Thursday, March 9	Technology & Math	M. Frey/G. DeBoer	6:00-8:00 PM
Richardson	Thursday, March 9	Adult ESL Classes	B. Struhala/H.Laor/L. Apisa	6:30-8:30 PM
Richardson	Monday, March 13	Intro. To Computers	D. Varela	6-8 PM
Richardson	Tuesday, March 14	Math Workshop	Mrs. Lawrence	6:00-8:00 PM
Richardson	Tuesday, March 14	Adult ESL Classes	B. Struhala/H.Laor/L. Apisa	6:30-8:30 PM
Richardson	Wednesday, March 15	Intro. To Computers	D. Varela	6-8 PM
Richardson	Thursday, March 16	Adult ESL Classes	B. Struhala/H.Laor/L. Apisa	6:30-8:30 PM
Richardson	Thursday, March 16	Parenting Workshop	C. Arroyo/L. Nagy	6-8 PM
Richardson	Monday, March 20	Intro. To Computers	D. Varela	6-8 PM
Richardson	Tuesday, March 21	Adult ESL Classes	B. Struhala/H.Laor/L. Apisa	6:30-8:30 PM
Richardson	Tuesday, March 21	Writing Workshop	C. Lawrence	6:00-8:00 PM
Richardson	Wednesday, March 22	Intro. To Computers	D. Varela	6-8 PM
Richardson	Thursday, March 23	Adult ESL Classes	B. Struhala/H.Laor/L. Apisa	6:30-8:30 PM
Richardson	Monday, March 27	Intro. To Computers	D. Varela	6-8 PM
Richardson	Tuesday, March 28	Adult ESL Classes	B. Struhala/H. Laor/L. Apisa	6:30-8:30 PM
Richardson	Wednesday, March 29	Intro. To Computers	D. Varela	6-8 PM
Richardson	Thursday, March 30	Adult ESL Classes	B. Struhala/H. Laor/L. Apisa	6:30-8:30 PM
Wilentz	Wednesday, March 1	Family Fitness 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Only	Physical Education Staff	6-7:30 PM
Wilentz	Thursday, March 2	Dr. Seuss' Night – K, 1, 2	R. Cohen/A. Photis	6:30-8:00 PM
Wilentz	Thursday, March 2	Family Tools & Technology 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Only	R. Wieme/B. Santamaria	6:30 – 8:30 PM

Wilentz	Wednesday, March 8	Climate Committee Meeting	Committee Members	8:00 AM
Wilentz	Wednesday, March 8	Family Fitness 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Only	Physical Education Staff	6-7:30PM
Wilentz	Thursday, March 9	Family Tools & Technology 4th Grade Only	R. Wieme/B. Santamaria	6:30-8:30 PM
Wilentz	Friday, March 10	Student & Staff Support Team	Committee Members	8:00 AM
Wilentz	Wednesday, March 15	Family Fitness 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Only	Physical Education Staff	6-7:30 PM
Wilentz	Thursday, March 16	Family Literacy	L. Mendez/R.Cohen/H.	6-8 PM
Wilentz	Tuesday, March 21	Public Relations Committee Meeting	Committee Members	8:00 AM
Wilentz	Wednesday, March 22	Parent College at Wilentz	W. Hernandez/M. Walling	6-8 PM
Wilentz	Thursday, March 23	Family Literacy	L. Mendez/R.Cohen/H. Huzar	6-8 PM
Wilentz	Wednesday, March 29	SLC	Committee	3:05 PM
Wilentz	Wednesday, March 29	Family Fitness 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Only	Physical Education Staff	6-7:30 PM
Wilentz	Thursday, March 30	Family Literacy	L. Mendez/R.Cohen/H. Huzar	6-8 PM