

# Safer Children Building Safer Communities

## Who Benefits?

- Recipients of the low-income houses built by the youth
- Economically Disadvantaged Youth including:
  - Youth offender or child of an incarcerated parent
  - Youth in danger of dropping out of school
  - Youth in foster care, from low-income families, or with a disability

## Research-Informed Policy Practice: How does YouthBuild help?

- More than 80% of NJ youth released from correctional facilities are arrested within 3 years (Pelletier & Harvell, 2017).
- Studies show that social connectedness lead to reductions in crime rates (Stuart & Taylor, 2021).
- Children who are involved with and engaged in their communities are less likely to re-offend.



# The New Jersey YouthBuild Act Bill A2331

- Enables economically disadvantaged youth to obtain education, job skills training, personal counseling & leadership development
- Youth are trained in construction and renovation of housing for low-income populations



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- Newark's high school drop out rate is higher than state and national levels
- The YouthBuild program led to increases of 14% in GED recipients, 10% in vocational school enrolment and 6% in college enrollment (Miller et al., 2018)

Newark's disconnected student rates remain above state and national levels

Lines show the percentage of youth aged 16-24 who are both out of school and unemployed.

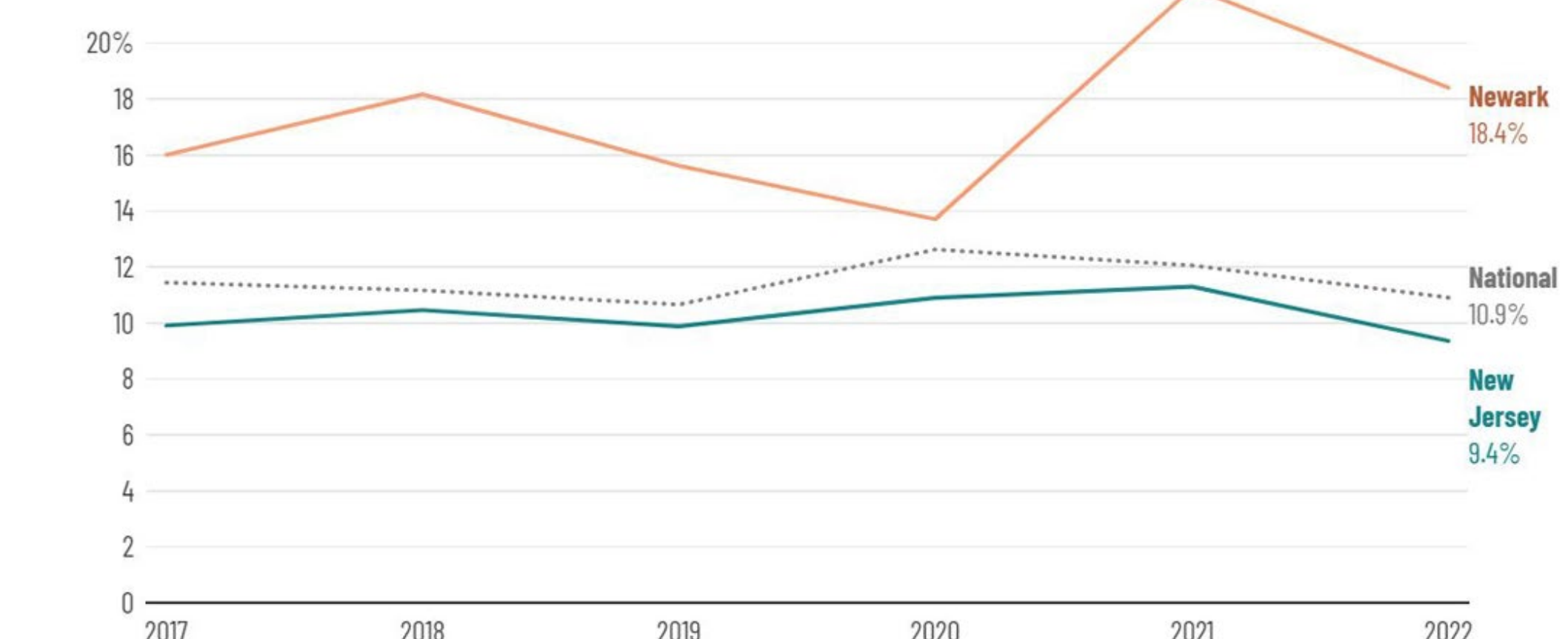


Chart: Kae Petrin and Thomas Wilburn • Source: Chalkbeat analysis of IPUMS/Census data



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