

Newburyport Public Library

Community and Library Profiles 2024



NEWBURYPORT
PUBLIC LIBRARY

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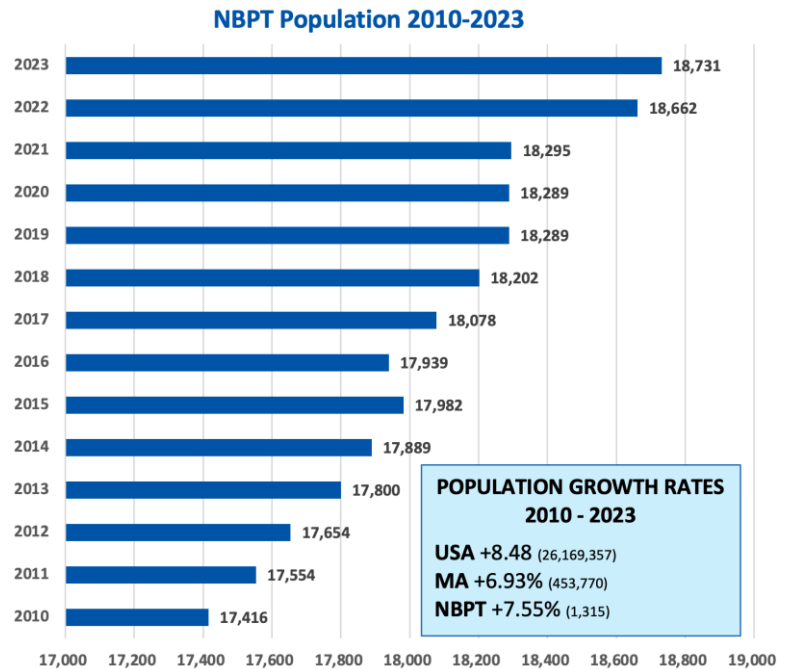
Newburyport Public Library, 94 State Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

Newburyport Community Profile

POPULATION: The US Census Bureau estimates Newburyport’s (NBPT) population for 2023 is 18,731. Aside from a small downtick in 2016 (-.24%), the city’s population continues to grow at a rate that exceeds the State’s.

NPL Population Growth Rates

Range (Years)	% +/-
2010-2014	2.9%
2010-2017	3.8%
2010-2022	7.2%
2017-2022	3.2%
2020-2022	2.0%

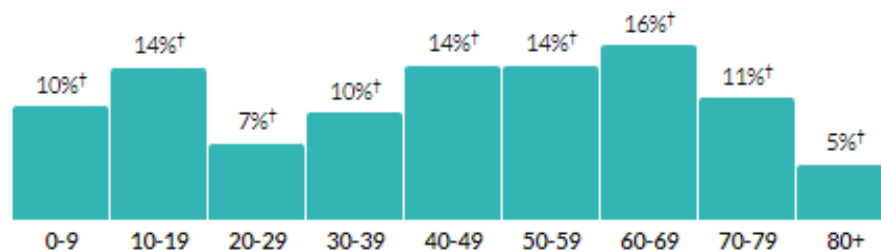


AGE DISTRIBUTION: Mirroring the national trend towards an expanding aging population, NBPT’s residents aged 65+ grew 2.2% from 2017 to 2022. During this same period, the number of residents aged 18 or younger grew by 2.3%. However, the growth rate of the older age group was 5.2% between 2010 and 2022, which is 3.8% faster than the growth of the under-18-year-old group.

2022 Age Distribution

Years Old	2010	2017	2022
≤18	20.8%	19.9%	22.2%
19–64	62.7%	60.6%	56.1%
65+	16.5%	19.5%	21.7%

Population by age range



ETHNICITY: NBPT’s population is predominantly white. The percentage of minority residents more than tripled from 2000 to 2017 to 6%, which increased to 8% as of 2022. Those who identify as two or more ethnicities (4%), Hispanic (2.8%), or Asian (1.5%) are the largest non-white communities. The US Census Bureau predicts that the city’s population will continue to grow increasingly diverse.

Census Year	% White
2010	96.4%
2017	94.1%
2020	94.3%
2022	93.7%

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT: Consistent with national and State trends, NBPT’s public school system’s enrollment has decreased since the 2019-2020 school year. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, total US enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year decreased by 2% from the 2019-2020 level. Massachusetts’ enrollment decreased by 3.7%, and the city’s enrollment decreased by 4.7% for the same period. State and NBPT enrollment increased slightly for the 2023-2024 school year by .1% and 3%, respectively.

Since the 2019-2020 school year, MA enrollment decreased by 3.6%, and NBPT enrollment decreased by 4.4%.

Public Elementary and Secondary Schools Enrollment

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Newburyport	2,262	2,126	2,150	2,155	2,162
Massachusetts	948,828	911,465	911,529	913,735	914,959
US (million)	50,796	49,375	49,433	-	-

EDUCATION: 97.2% percent of NBPT’s residents aged 25 or older have a high school diploma. More than half (64.6%) earned a bachelor’s degree or higher.

HOUSING: NBPT’s housing costs are increasing rapidly. NBPT’s median value of owner-occupied units grew 14% to \$497,100 from 2010 to 2017. Over the next five years, NBPT’s median value of owner-occupied housing units increased 48% to \$737,200. The State’s median value increased by 27% during the same period. NBPT’s median gross rent increased 8% to \$1,174 from 2010 to 2017. From 2017 to 2022, it increased 21.5% to \$1,426.

Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing Units

	2017	2022
Newburyport	\$497,100	\$737,200
Massachusetts	\$381,400	\$483,900

In 2017, 76% of the city’s 7,881 occupied housing units were owner-occupied—up 5% since 2010. In 2022, 77% of Newburyport’s 7,591 occupied housing units were owner-occupied.

INCOME: From 2010 to 2017, NBPT’s median household income grew 18% and continuously exceeded the Massachusetts median. In 2017, 62% of the NBPT’s residents earned \$100k or more. 26% earned \$200k or more. The per capita income was \$54,989, and 7% of the city’s residents lived in poverty.

From 2017 to 2022, NBPT’s median household income grew by 41.6%, still exceeding the State’s median household income. In 2022, 59% of residents earned more than \$100K, a 3% decrease from 2017. However, 30.6% earned at least \$200K, an increase of 4% since 2017. The city’s per capita income was \$73,247, and 5.9% lived below the poverty line.

Median Household Income

	2010	2017	2020	2022
Newburyport	\$76,300	\$89,887	\$110,740	\$127,306
Massachusetts	\$66,658	\$74,167	\$87,810	\$93,550

UNEMPLOYMENT: Newburyport’s unemployment rates are consistently lower than the State and national averages.

Unemployment Rates

	NBPT	MA	US
June 2019	2.5%	3.2%	3.6%
March 2024	2.8%	3.5%	3.8%



Community Profile Data Sources:

- City of Newburyport, Massachusetts, Housing Needs Assessment, Page 5 (https://www.cityofnewburyport.com/sites/g/files/vyhlif12211/f/file/newburyport_housing_needs_assessment_6_clean_copy.pdf)
- MA Department of Economic Research, Labor Force and Unemployment Data (<https://lmi.dua.eol.mass.gov/LMI/LaborForceAndUnemployment>)
- MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (<https://profiles.doe.mass.edu/profiles/student.aspx?orgcode=02040000&orgtypecode=5&>)
- MA Department of Revenue - Division of Local Services (https://dls.gateway.dor.state.ma.us/reports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=Socioeconomic.Population.population_main)
- National Center for Education Statistics, Fast Facts - Enrollment Stats (<https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=65>)
- National Center for Education Statistics. (2024, February 5). *Public School Fall 2022 Enrollment Counts Remain Below Fall 2019* [Press release] https://nces.ed.gov/whatsnew/press_releases/2_05_2024.asp
- US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey (<https://www.bls.gov/cps>)
- US Census Bureau—ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates (<https://data.census.gov/table?q=population%2001950%202017&g=8610000US01950>)
- US Census Bureau—QuickFacts (<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/newburyportcitymassachusetts#>)

Newburyport Public Library Profile

LIBRARY HISTORY:

Newburyport was one of the first ten communities in Massachusetts to establish a public library. Founded in 1854, the Newburyport Public Library opened to the public in 1855 in what is now the office of the City Treasurer in City Hall. The Library opened with 5,688 volumes on its shelves.

To accommodate the expanding Library, eight local subscribers purchased the Tracy Mansion on State Street and conveyed the property to the City to be used in perpetuity as a public library. This historic brick building was built in 1771 for Nathaniel Tracy, a wealthy local merchant and ship owner. Nathaniel Tracy was an ardent patriot and a successful privateer during the Revolutionary War. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Aaron Burr, and General Lafayette were entertained in the Tracy Mansion. Tracy lost his fortune after the war and was forced to sell his assets, including his home. Before its transition to a public library, the Tracy Mansion was used as a hotel, a bowling saloon, and a dentist's office. The Library relocated to the Tracy Mansion in 1865 and opened to the public on January 1, 1866.

In 1870, the Newburyport Public Library established one of the first public newspaper reading rooms in the United States. A two-story addition, the Simpson Annex, was constructed in 1881. In the 1880s, the Library's exterior and portions of the interior were renovated in the Victorian style.

In 1900, the stacks were opened, allowing patrons to browse and retrieve books independently. The 1920s brought the creation of a separate Reference Department and a Children's Room. Founded in 1939, the Friends of the Newburyport Public Library continue to provide important support to the Library today. The Library's 1968 membership in the state's fledgling regional library system was a precursor to its current membership in the Massachusetts Library System (MLS). In 1985, public computers were introduced, and the Library became an active member of the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium (MVLC).

By the 1990s, the need for a larger and improved facility became evident. After a successful community effort, the Library moved forward with a \$6.8m renovation and expansion project. In October 1999, the Library moved to a temporary location, the Anvil Rock Farm, which enabled the Library to continue providing library services during construction. With great anticipation, the newly refurbished facility at 94 State Street reopened in May 2001.

In 2004, the Newburyport Public Library celebrated its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary.

Historically, the residents of Newburyport have been strong supporters of the Library, and this persists today. The Newburyport Public Library continues its long and historic tradition of providing a wide range of library services to the community.

~ Preserving the Past – Shaping the Present – Inspiring the Future ~

LIBRARY GOVERNANCE AND FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY:

MISSION STATEMENT: Newburyport Public Library is a community hub that inspires and empowers all to access knowledge, culture, and social connections.

LIBRARY BOARD: A 12-member Board of Directors governs the Newburyport Public Library. The Mayor (Chairman of the Board) and President of the City Council are ex officio members. The directors serve with three self-perpetuating trustees of the Building Fund, seven board members appointed for seven-year terms, and the Head Librarian, who serves as Secretary to the Board.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY: The active Library Friends group is composed of a Board of Directors and many community members. Friends of the Library members [volunteers] promote awareness of the Library, encourage public support for the Library, and raise funds to support and enrich many Library services and programs. Fundraising activities include spring and fall Book Sales, a winter Kids Book Sale, and an Annual Appeal.

LIBRARY STATISTICS:

FACILITY: The Library building has four floors (38,304 square feet) of ADA-compliant and accessible space. Public meeting space includes two small study rooms, two conference rooms, and one large program room. In FY2023, meeting rooms were booked 2,400 times for community use.

COLLECTION: In FY2023, the Library's collection consisted of 103,150 items, including print and media materials for adults, young adults, and children. Circulation was 249,742, and the Library ranked #5 in total circulation per hour open out of the 36 Merrimack Valley Library Consortium libraries.

STAFF: The Library has 21 staff members, including:

- Head Librarian
- Assistant Head Librarian
- 5 Full-Time Senior Librarians
- 7 Full-Time Staff Librarians
- 5 Full-Time Library Technicians
- 1 Part-Time Library Technician
- 1 Administrative Assistant

GENERAL OPERATIONS: The following are some FY2023 general Library operations stats:

- **Registered Borrowers:** 10,681
- **Open:** 297 days for a total of 3,141 hours
- **Library Visits:** 126,208
- **Volunteer Hours:** 747,224 in various Library support roles

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND SUPPORT: The Library continues to expand its community outreach and support activities. In FY2019, 26 deliveries were made to homebound patrons. By FY2023, this number almost tripled, with 72 deliveries to homebound patrons. Additional Library activities:

- Library staff facilitates the Senior Center Retired Readers book group
- Head Librarian serves the Newburyport Literary Festival’s steering committee.
- Annually, the Library awards the Cushing Prize for English to two local high school students.

GRANTS: When opportunities arise, the Library identifies and pursues supplemental funding via grants:

- **Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grant:** Awarded a two-year (FY2019 and FY2020) \$30,000 Preservation Grant for the Library’s Archival Center.
- **Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grant:** Awarded \$20,000 Access for All Grant to improve accessibility to the Library’s services.
- **Local Foundation Grants:** Awarded annual grants for the ongoing Historic Newspapers Microfilm Digitization Project.

PROGRAMMING: The Library offers diverse programs for all age groups, including passive programming, like our Book-Up Bag subscriptions for teens. In FY2023, the Library presented 492 programs with a total attendance of 8,820.

TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES: The Library supports the community’s technological needs by offering free programs, services, and tools. Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the building. In FY2023, there were 8,417 logins (avg. 23/day) on the Library’s 18 public computers. There were 111,220 visits (avg. 305/day) to its website (www.newburyportpl.org). The Library maintains an active social media presence, including posting on Facebook, Instagram, and Pinterest.

