



CENTRAL NJ DSA CENSUS REPORT 2024

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Authored by:

Brooke McClarren [Steering Co-Chair]

Mia Mathews [HGO]

Tom T. Young [CNJ DSA member]

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Introduction

Every year the chapter does a census survey. This helps membership understand trends, demographics and correlations of the membership data. In this survey members were asked a group of demographic questions ranging from gender, race and political ideology to name a few. If you participated in this survey you helped your chapter astronomically and your data is valuable to all members who are within the community we call CNJ DSA.

While you read this report and understand the assumptions made based on the data, understand that we conduct this survey every year so while some things may be surprising or even concerning there is always change that can occur when we organize to win. Without members like you none of this would be possible, and hopefully this census survey drives you to become involved in even more ways throughout the chapter than you have previously imagined.

We also hope you reflect on the findings and recommendations. Political Education resources are linked throughout to contextualize the information. Those documents in addition to a greater library are provided in the Resources folder within Public Political Education Resources. As active organizers, we should study our history as well as consider the current state of the world for a variety of peoples.

This year we obtained 56 responses from a total of 365 MIGS (Members in good standing). This is a proportionate response rate to accurately analyze the membership body. While we are always striving for 100% survey participation from our MIGS, we will aim for 50% participation in 2025 to help us gain a clearer understanding of our members

Census Highlights

The highlights from Survey

- Central NJ DSA is composed of a wide variety of political alignments, with the largest proportion democratic socialists.
- 28.6% members are over the age of 35.
- 26.6% members have or have had a disability.
- 60% of the survey identify as a man.

The highlights from membership information on Members in Good Standing (MIGS)

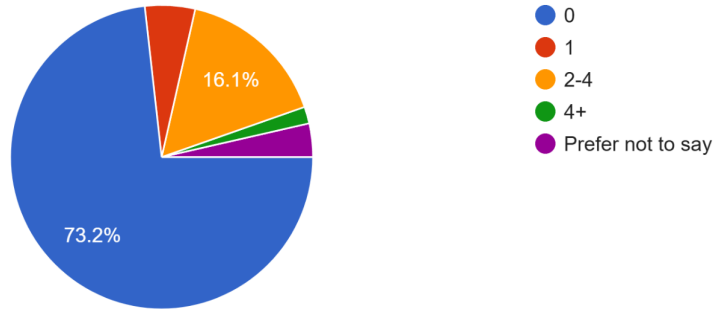
- 69.5% identify as white only.
- 8.0% identify as Hispanic or Latinx, less than the NJ demographic of 22.7%.
- 4.5% identify as Black, less than the NJ demographic of 10.6%.
- 5.5% identify as Two or More Races, more than the NJ demographic of 2.5%

As demonstrated later in the document, the demographics can be narrowed down to white cis man being the dominant gender and racial demographic for the chapter.

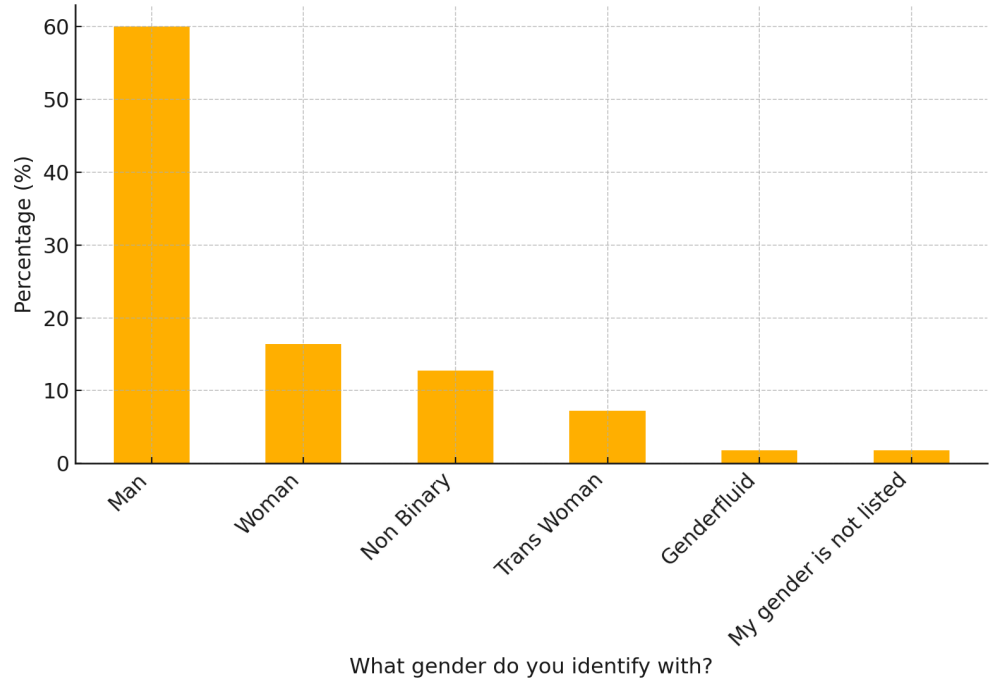
Graphical Highlights

<h2>Age</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18-24 years old 25-34 years old 35-44 years old 45-54 years old 55-64 years old 65-74 years old 75 years or older
<h2>Ethnicity</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White (Eg: German, Irish, English, Italian, Polish, French, etc) Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin (Eg: Mexican or Mexican American, Puerto...) Black or African American (Eg: African...) Asian (Eg: Chinese, Filipino, Asian Ind...) American Indian or Alaska Native(Eg:... Middle Eastern or North African (Eg: L...) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islan... Some other race, ethnicity or origin
<h2>Political Alignment</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anarchism Orthodox marxism Marxism-Leninism Trotskyism Revisionist marxism Democratic socialism Social-Democracy Social-Liberalism
<h2>Disability</h2>	<p>Have you now or in the past have had a disability?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes No

Dependants

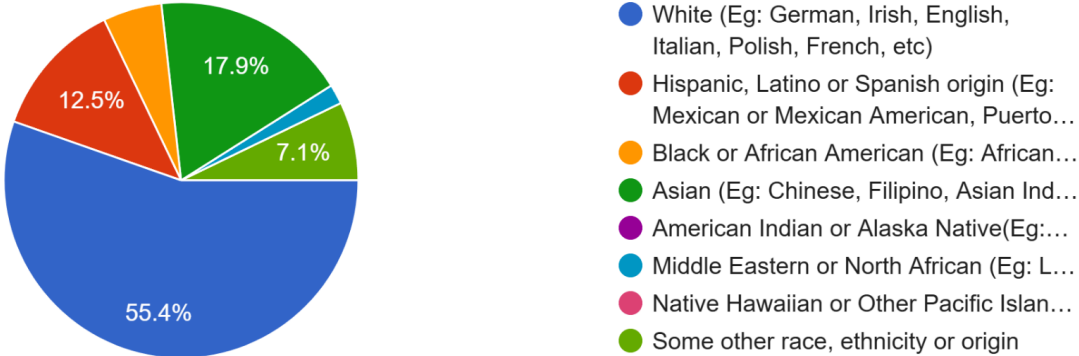


Gender

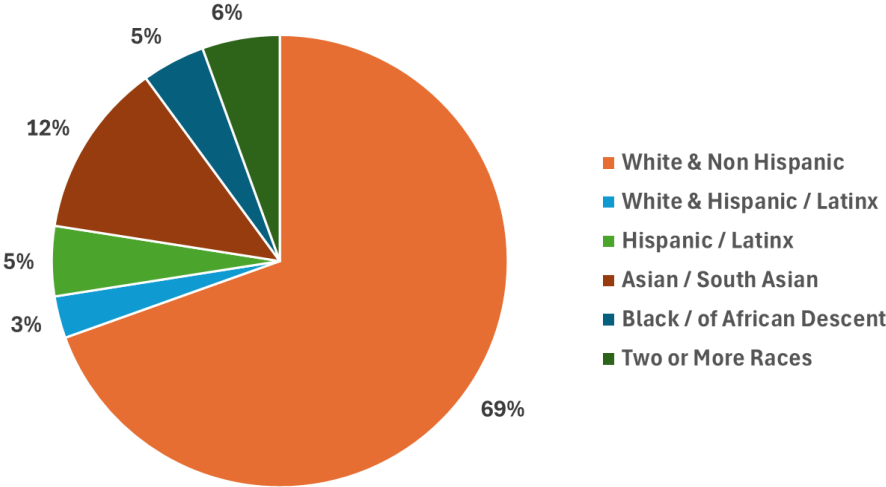


Race & Ethnicity

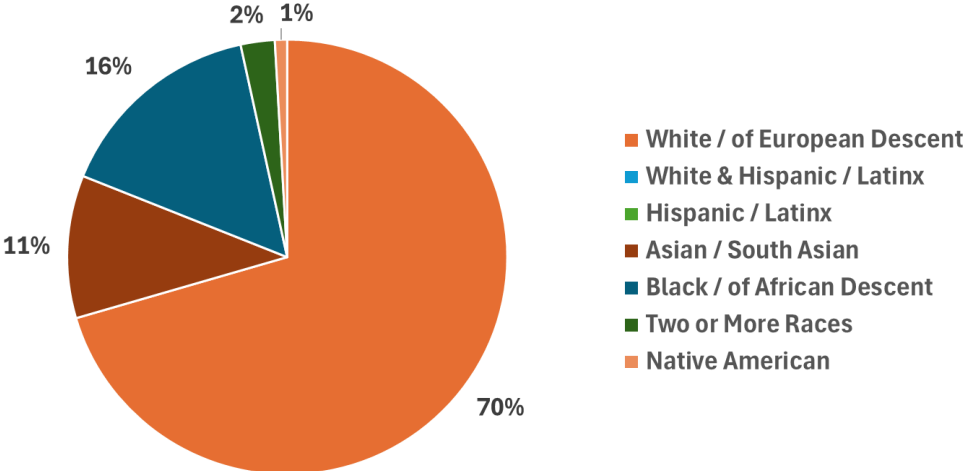
Per Survey and available for additional analysis.



Membership List 203 participants of 368 members in good standing (165 declined to answer).



NJ Ethnicity from Federal Census Data ([Link](#)).



Percent of Population

	CNJ DSA MIGS (%)	NJ (%)	Difference (%)
White / of European Descent	69.5	70.4	-0.9
White & Hispanic / Latinx	3.0	-	N/A
Hispanic / Latinx (Non White)	5.0	-	N/A
Asian / South Asian	12.5	10.6	+1.9
Black / of African Descent	4.5	15.5	-11.0
Two or More Races	5.5	2.5	+3.0
Native American	.00	0.9	-0.9

Hispanic or Latino is not exclusive to one race.

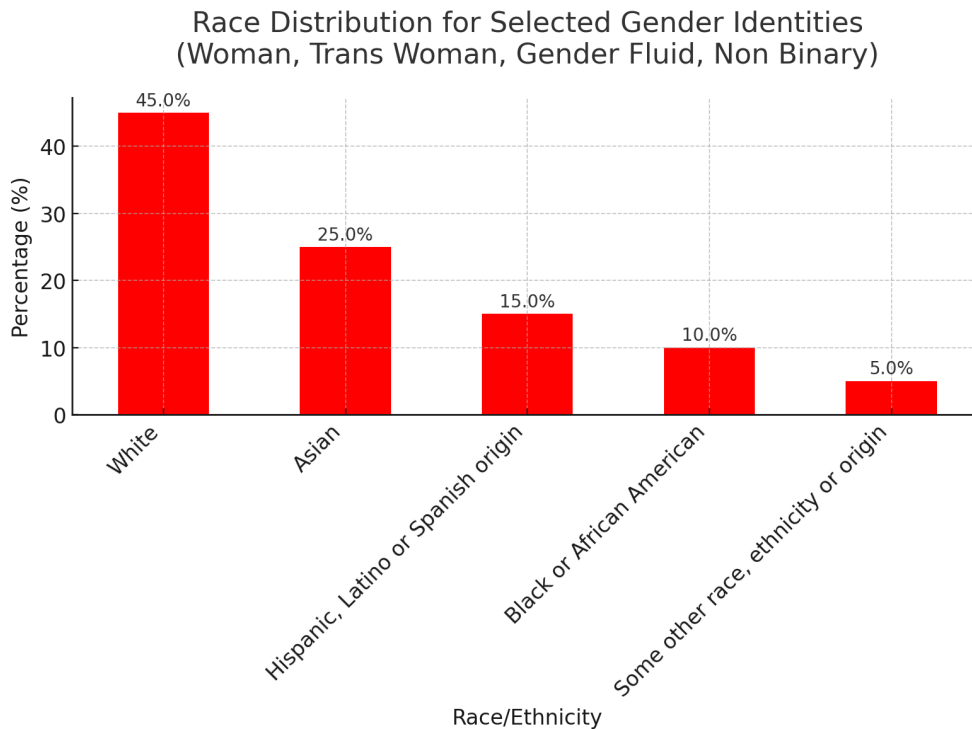
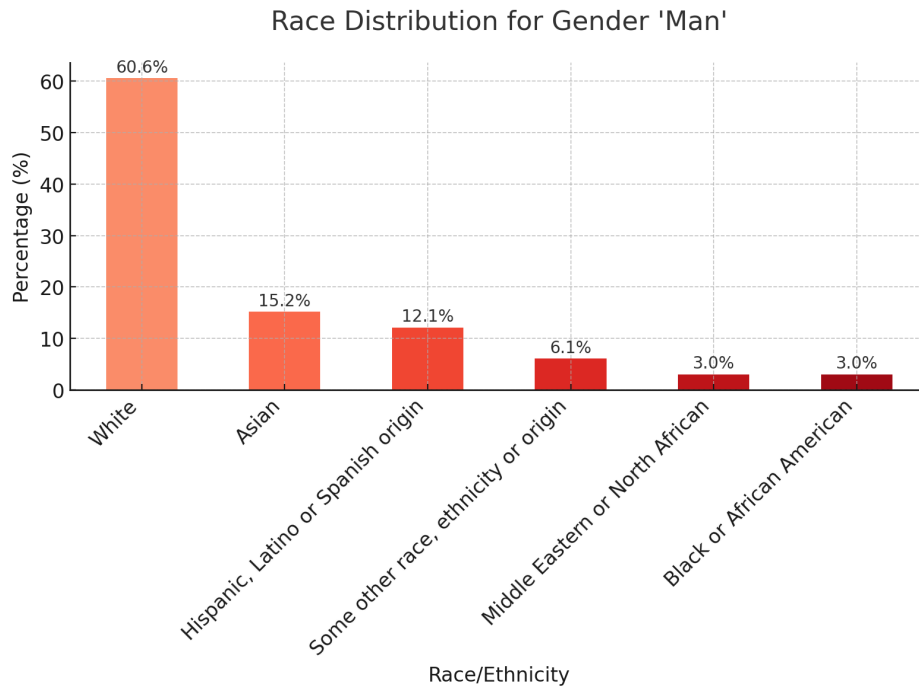
The NJ Census has a separate question for Hispanic or Latino identity ([Link](#)).

	CNJ DSA MIGS (%)	NJ (%)	Difference (%)
Hispanic / Latinx	8.0	22.7	-14.7
White Alone, not Hispanic or Latinx	69.5	52.0	+17.5

Synthesis

The chapter is significantly composed of individuals identifying as white, consistent with NJ demographics. The chapter is underrepresented by individuals identifying as non-white Hispanic/Latinx and Black/of African descent. Hispanic and Black communities are most affected by capitalism and have unique challenges white organizers may not recognize or properly address. Underrepresentation leads to a burden of diversity within the chapter, referring to an unfair expectation that marginalized individuals take responsibility for addressing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, often without recognition. We strongly recommend the reading of a Socialist Theory of Racism ([Link](#)). As a chapter, there is a clear need to organize Hispanic and Black communities.

Race & Gender

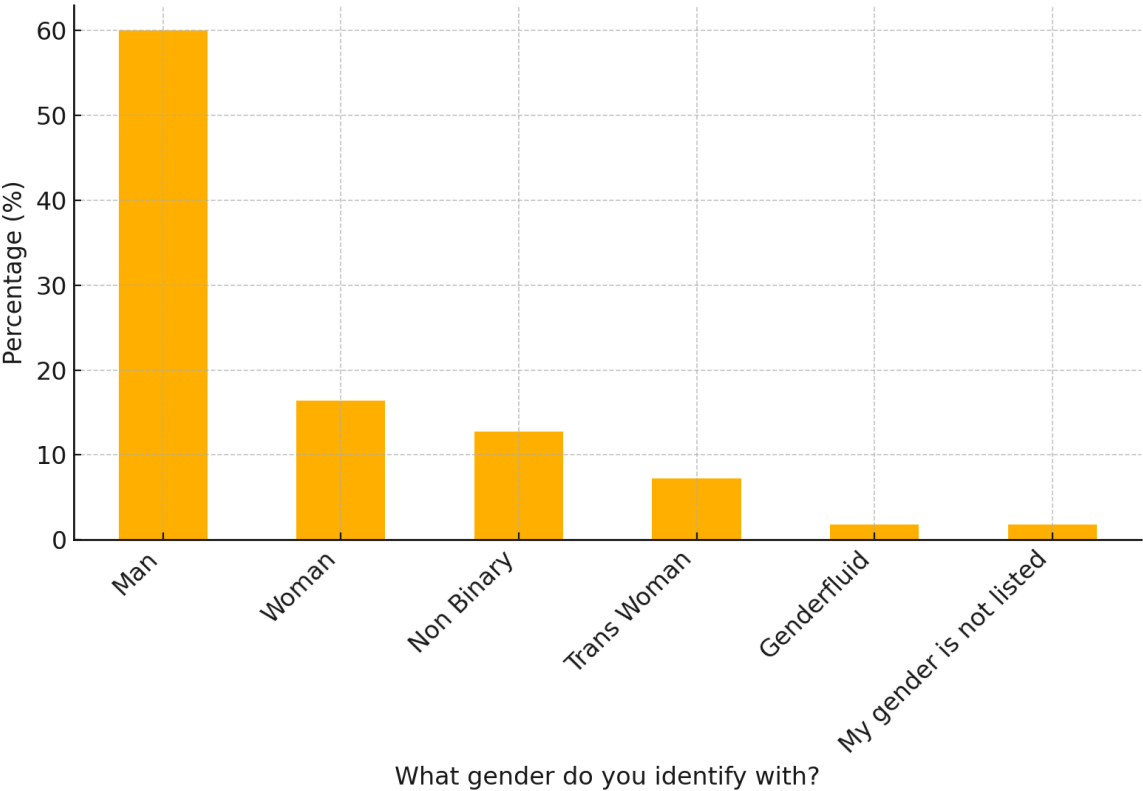


It's strongly recommended to review not only the intersection of race and state but the intersectionality of race, gender, class and state. Please read "Complicating the triangle of race, class and state: the insights of black feminists" ([Link](#)).

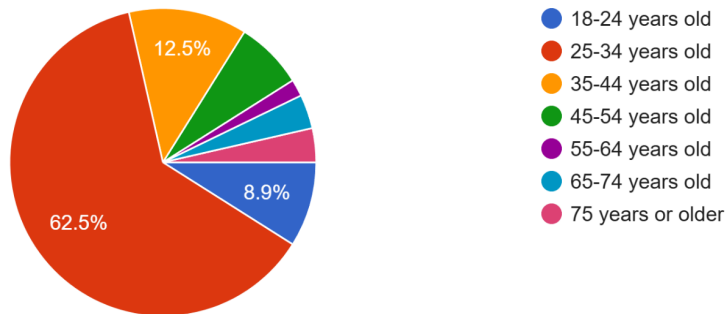
Gender

Gender data is collected in the survey to help analyze the dynamics and assess how the chapter performs with diversity in dynamics. To provide better information on potential intersections of gender, later sections include gender information. This result of the survey indicates the chapter needing to reach non cis man demographics and can be done with internal organizing. Currently, the national organization does not collect gender statistics so a more accurate representation cannot be provided.

It is recommended to review the social reproduction theory, to race class and gender ([Link](#)).



Age & Education & Employment

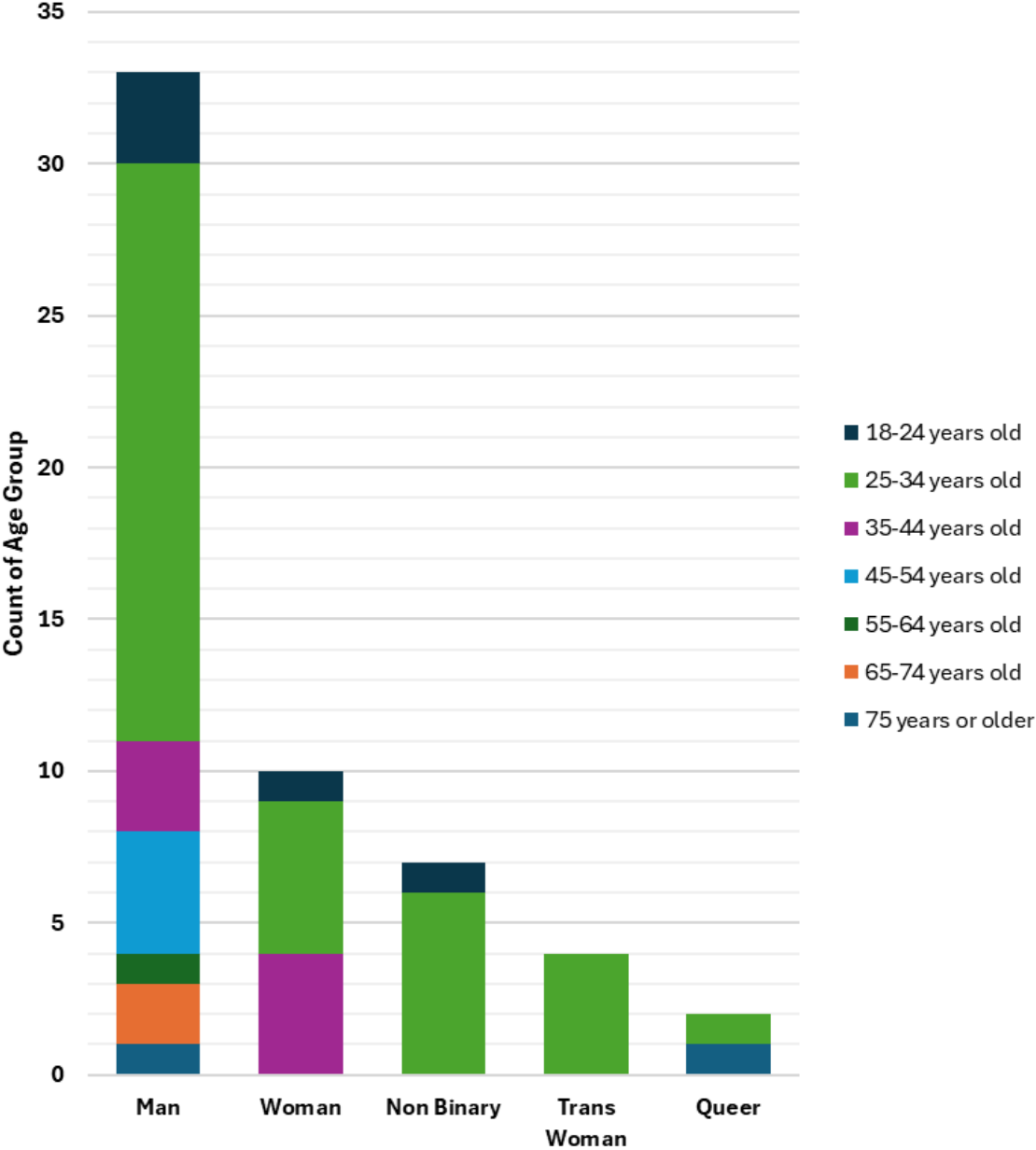


The most common age demographic is between the ages of 25-34. Showing the bulk of the chapter is of the millennial generation. This can be assumed by a few factors such as the rise of Bernie Sanders during the 2016 election swaying people to Democratic Socialism. Another assumption can be assumed with the introduction of major events such as the election of Donald Trump's first term as a president. The rise of popularity and familiarity amongst mutual aid networks during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Pew Research center highlights the shifting political views of various generations with millennials and Gen Z holding more socialist views ([Link](#)).

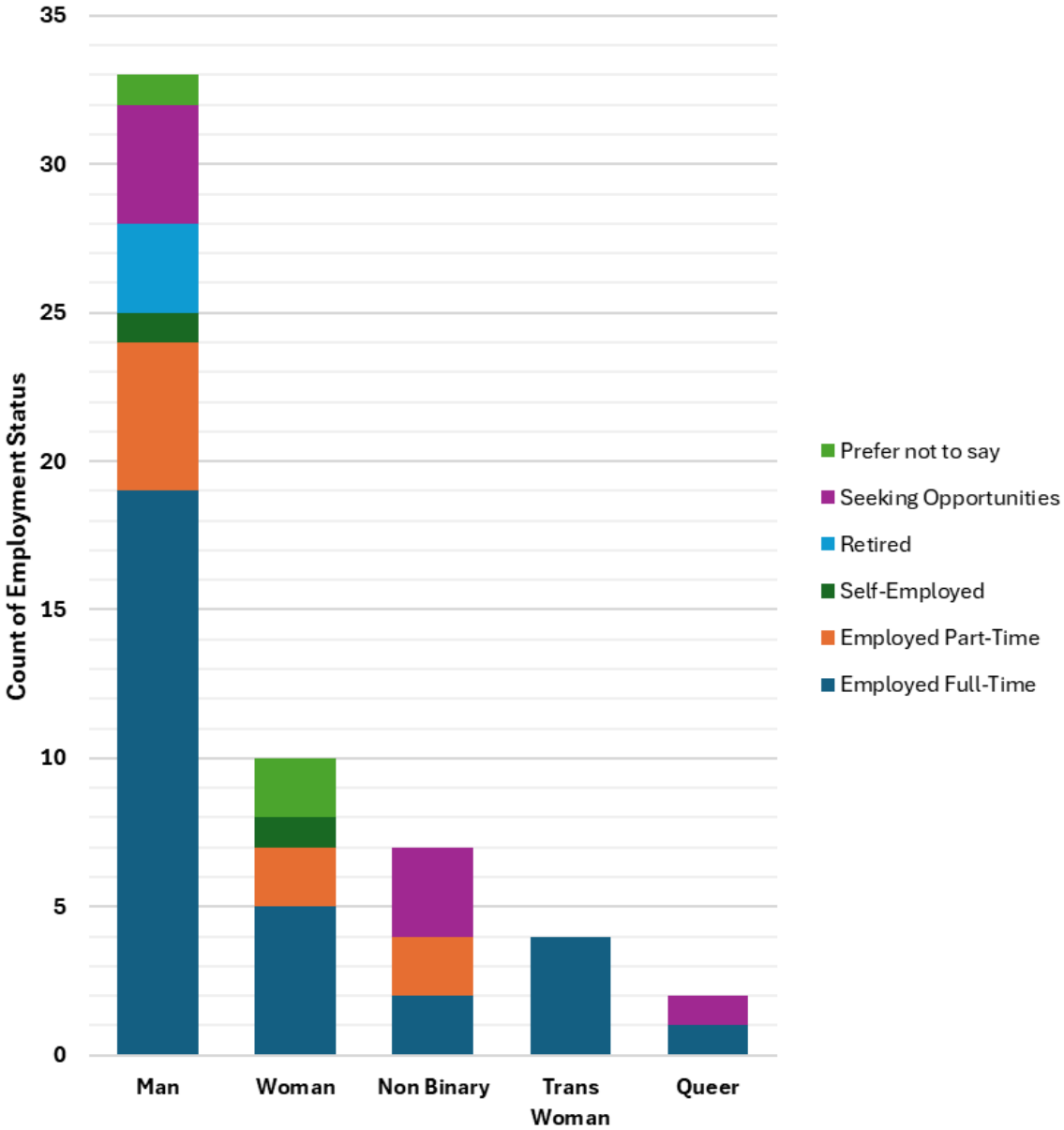
Most people in this age range also attended colleges during the years of 2014-2016. This correlates with a high percentage of survey participants completing a bachelors or higher level education. It is posited that higher education has a correlation with more leftist / liberal views. Pew research center has an article identifying key issues on partisan divides regarding high education which provide insights on diverging views ([Link](#)).

When compared with gender, Queer/Trans people (who did not identify as cis man or cis woman), had the greatest portion of completing a high school diploma as the highest education level. In consideration with the income gap associated with education level, that belies a greater vulnerability within the class structure.

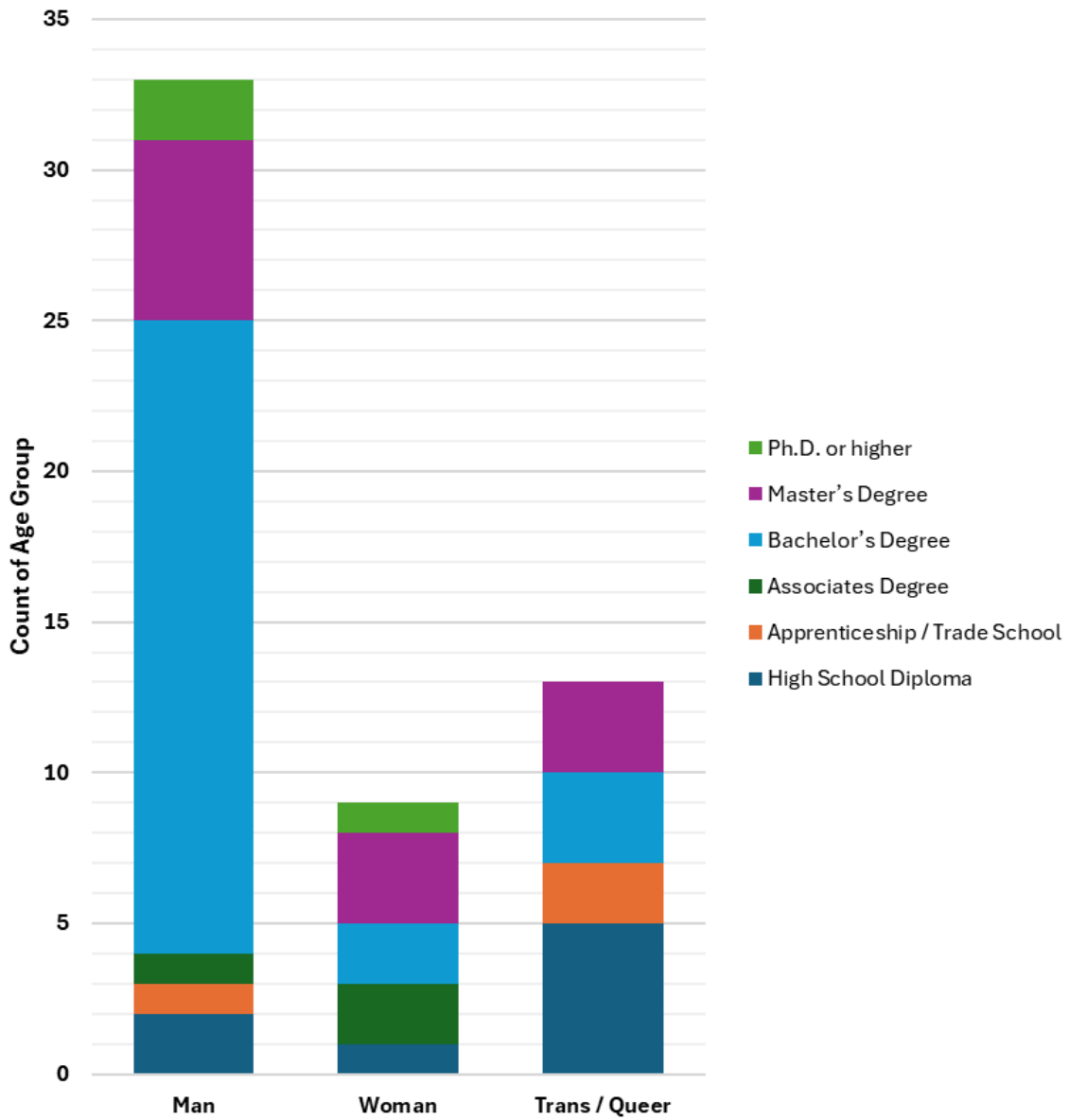
Gender and Age Distribution



Gender and Employment

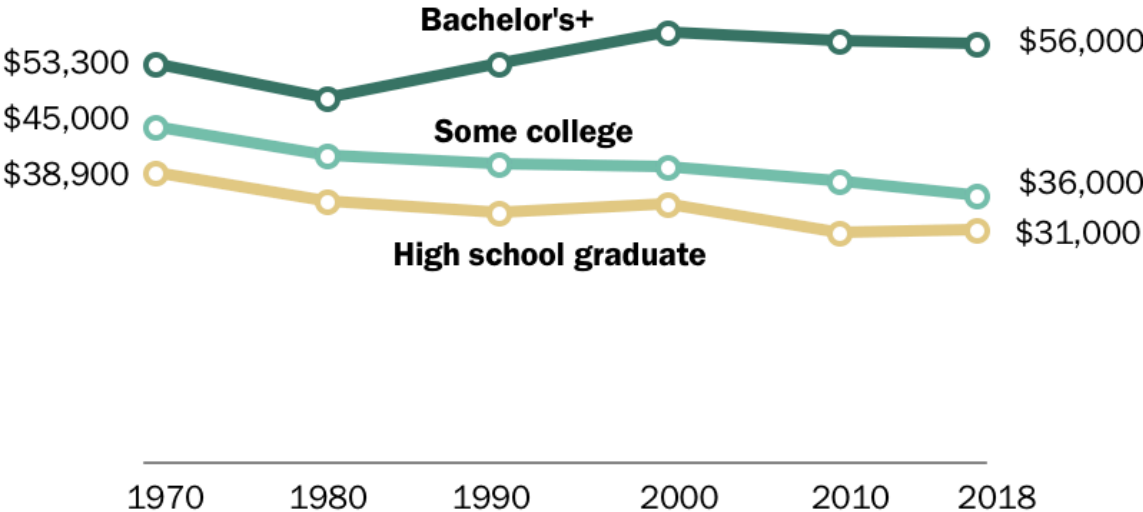


Gender and Education Distribution



Income gap between four-year college graduates and other workers has grown in recent decades

Median annual earnings among full-time workers ages 25 to 37, in 2017 dollars

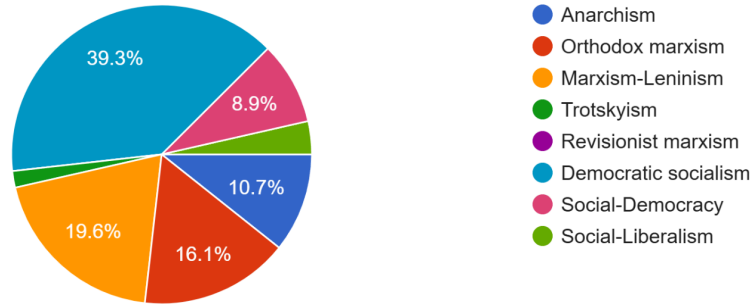


Note: Median annual earnings include only wage and salary income (self-employment income is not included). Earnings are based on 25- to 37-year-olds who worked full time during the previous calendar year and reported positive income. "Full time" refers to those who usually worked at least 35 hours per week last year. "High school graduate" includes those who have a high school diploma or equivalent, such as a GED certificate. "Some college" includes those with an associate degree and those who attended college but did not obtain a degree. In 1970, 1980 and 1990, "high school graduate" includes those who completed 12th grade (regardless of diploma status) and "Bachelor's+" includes those who completed at least four years of college (regardless of degree status).
Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010 and 2018 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (IPUMS).

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

[Link](#)

Political Ideology



Overall, it is notable the variety of political ideologies in cooperation within DSA.

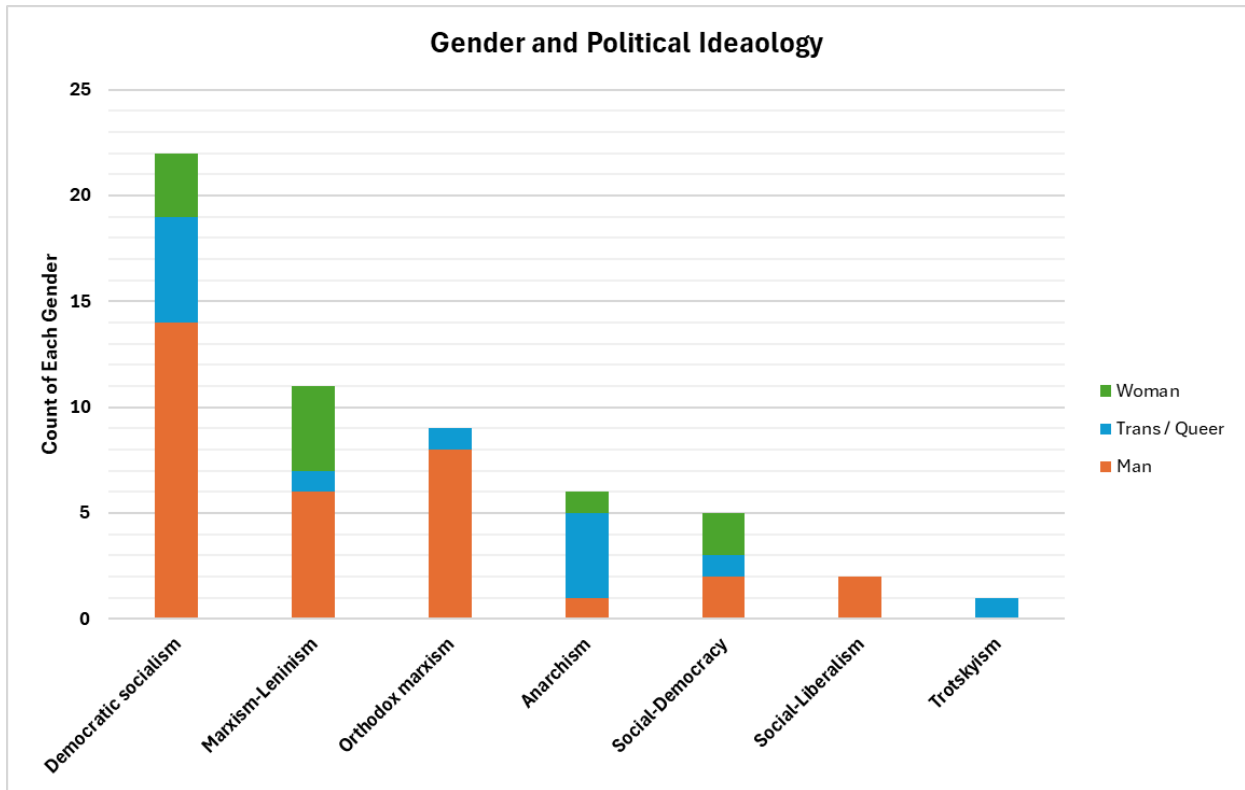


Table in percentages representing political ideology as a percentage within a gender category. Note due to sample size, values than than 8% indicate 1 participant.

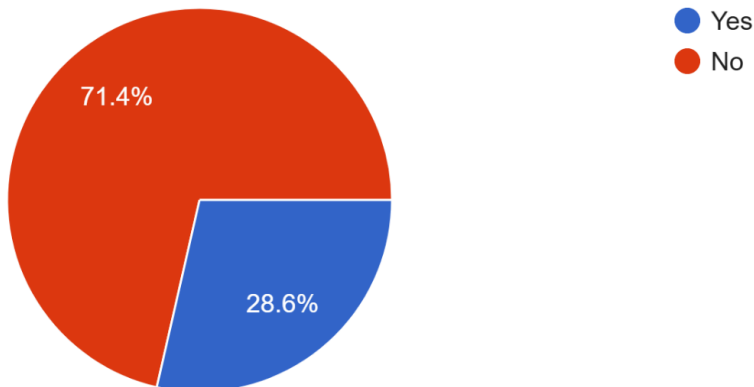
What gender do you identify with?	Democratic socialism	Marxism-Leninism	Orthodox marxism	Anarchism	Social-Democracy	Social-Liberalism	Trotskyism
Cis Man	42.4	18.2	24.2	3	6.1	6.1	0
Cis Woman	33.3	33.3	0	11.1	22.2	0	0
Trans / Queer	38.5	7.7	7.7	30.8	7.7	0	7.7

Disability & Dependents

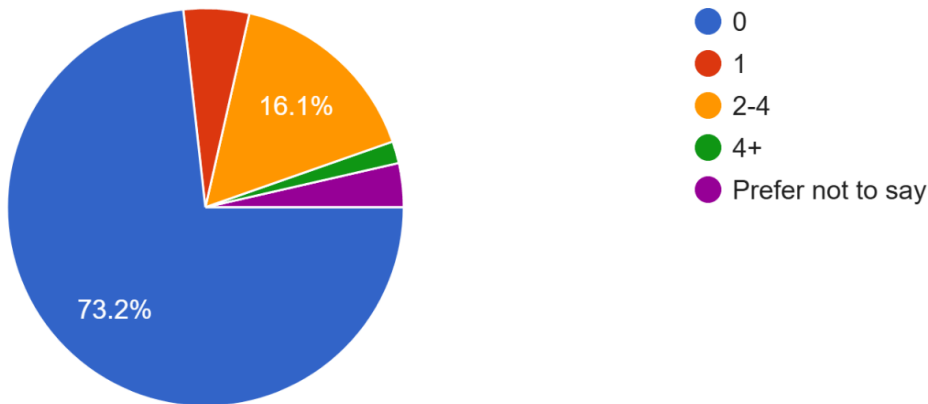
Interactions with class and the state also have notable intersections with disability and dependents. There is a history of socialists organizing by and for people with disabilities. See the DSA disability working group ([Link](#)) or History of Disability Justice Movement ([Link](#)). In the survey, 26.6% of respondents said they have or have had a disability. The NJ Census identified people currently experiencing a disability at 6.9%. The survey and census statistics are not directly comparable for this subject.

A dependent is a person dependent on someone else for care. In most contexts, dependents refer to children but in a wider context may include an adult. In the survey, 23.3% of respondents stated they have dependents. That presents additional information regarding resources and support needed for participants. To more actively engage persons with children, DSA could support child watch programs such as Comrade Sprouts.

Disability: Have you now or in the past have had a disability?



Number of dependents



Conclusion

This survey highlights critical gaps and opportunities for the CNJ DSA chapter's organizing efforts. The high proportion of white membership underscores an urgent need to engage communities most impacted by capitalism, requiring deeper study and intentional outreach. Addressing the intersectionality of race, gender, class, and state must be central to our work, with resources like [A Socialist Theory of Racism](#) and [Complicating the Triangle of Race, Class, and State](#) offering vital frameworks for action.

Internally, we must prioritize recruiting and supporting non-cis male organizers, recognizing that social reproduction theory is essential in understanding the material realities of marginalized members. With the majority of our chapter in the 25-34 age range, we must also consider generational perspectives on higher education and class dynamics. Notably, the survey reveals that Queer/Trans members—particularly those outside the gender binary—are disproportionately impacted by economic precarity, reinforcing the need for class-conscious solidarity.

Finally, with nearly a quarter of respondents reporting dependents, expanding accessibility through initiatives like child watch programs (e.g., Comrade Sprouts) could remove barriers to engagement. As a chapter that values collective action, our next steps must reflect these insights—building a more inclusive, intersectional, and materially supportive movement.

Now, let's organize.