

NEW JERSEY KIDS COUNT 2011 COUNTY PROFILES AND RANKINGS



Advocates for Children of New Jersey
35 Halsey Street, Newark, NJ 07102
(973) 643-3876 www.acnj.org



NEWS



For Immediate Release

May 23, 2011

Contact: Nancy Parello, 973-643-3876 or (908) 399-6031

Hunterdon Tops Kids Count Rankings, Cumberland Comes in Last

Hunterdon County ranked number one out of all New Jersey counties in overall child well-being and Cumberland County ranked last, according to the **New Jersey Kids Count** annual rankings released today.

Kids Count compares counties on 15 measures, including child poverty, health, safety and education.

Hunterdon, Morris, Bergen, Somerset and Middlesex were the top five ranking counties, while Cumberland, Salem, Atlantic, Cape May and Passaic were the five lowest.

Hunterdon reclaimed the 1st place spot after being edged out by Morris last year. Last year, Cumberland moved up to 20th, with Atlantic County placing 21st. This year, Atlantic moved to the 19th position.

The reason counties move up or down the Kids Count rankings varies from county to county. In some counties, increases in child poverty may push them further down in the rankings, while other counties have shown improvements in areas such as health or education.

“Looking at child trends in each county can really help identify where children and families are struggling and can assist county leaders in responding to pressing issues,” said Cecilia Zalkind, executive director of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which

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publishes the Kids Count reports. “We have been encouraged by the counties’ increased efforts to use the information presented in Kids Count to improve child well-being.”

In addition to the county profiles, which measure progress over a 1-year period, ACNJ also released *New Jersey Kids Count: The State of Our Counties*, a pocket guide that provides a 5-year comparison of various measures of child well-being, including poverty, health, education and child protection.

“We encourage county leaders to use Kids Count data to understand the state of children in their county and to target resources to meet children’s most pressing needs,” Zalkind said. “Using data to drive decisions results in better outcomes for children and families.”

The overall child well-being rankings for each county follow. To view individual county profiles and rankings on specific indicators, go to www.acnj.org.

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Kids Count is a national and state-by-state statistical effort to track the state of children in the United States, sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Advocates for Children of New Jersey is a statewide child research and action organization and the New Jersey Kids Count grantee.

New Jersey Kids Count

OVERALL RANK

	2010 Rank	2011 Rank
Atlantic	21	19
Bergen	4	3
Burlington	11	8
Camden	17	16
Cape May	15	18
Cumberland	20	21
Essex	13	15
Gloucester	12	12
Hudson	18	14
Hunterdon	3	1
Mercer	9	11
Middlesex	5	5
Monmouth	6	6
Morris	1	2
Ocean	14	13
Passaic	16	17
Salem	19	20
Somerset	2	4
Sussex	7	7
Union	8	10
Warren	10	9

How ACNJ Calculated the Rankings for 2011:

Ranks are computed for each indicator so that 1 is the most positive and 21 is the least positive. For example, a county with the highest test scores would rank #1, while the county with the highest unemployment would rank #21.

Fifteen indicators of child well-being are ranked. The ranks exclude child and total population because these are not measures of child well-being. Each indicator is ranked for each county, and each county is ranked based on the rankings of its indicators. For county rankings, each indicator is given equal weight except for the three rankings for test scores (fourth, eighth and eleventh grades). The three grades are averaged for each county and that average is given the same weight as a single indicator. This is done to avoid over-representation of test scores in the final county averages.

2011 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2010 County Rank: 21

	Year	County	NJ	2010 Rank	2011 Rank
DEMOGRAPHICS					
Child Population	2009	63,321	2,045,848	15	15
Total Population	2009	271,712	8,707,739	15	15

FAMILY ECONOMICS					
Percentage of Children in Poverty	2009	17	13	17	15
Median Income of Families with Children	2009	\$58,459	\$83,742	19	17
Percentage Unemployed	2010	12.5	8.7	19	19
Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent	2009	55	50	19	16
Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast	2009-10	36.6	28.7	N/A	4

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care	2007	66.8	76.8	18	18
Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19	2007	10.32	6.59	20	18
Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)	2007	9	5	21	18
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations*	2009	67	44	16	17
Children in Out-of-Home Placement*	2010	5.01	3.47	11	15
Juvenile Arrests*	2009	34	24	17	16

*Rate per 1,000 children under 18.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Licensed Center-Based Child Care Supply (slots per 1,000 0-4)	2010	345	640	18	19
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests	2009-10	71	77	16	16
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests	2009-10	75	78	14	15
Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests	2009-10	75	82	16	17



To view data sources and for more information, visit www.acnj.org

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Atlantic County Moves Up To 19th in Kids Count Rankings

Atlantic County advanced to the 19th spot in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measures 15 areas of child well-being, moving up from the lowest ranked county last year.

The county saw its rankings improve in three critical areas: a decline in the percentage of children living in poverty, an increase in median family income and a drop in the percentage of households spending too much on rent.

The county also moved up in the ranks on two health indicators – birth to teens and infant mortality.

Atlantic again received its best marks for the percentage of eligible school-age children receiving free- or reduced-price breakfast. At roughly 37 percent, Atlantic County ranked 4th in the state on this indicator.

“We have been encouraged by the counties’ increased interest in using the information presented in Kids Count to improve child well-being,” said Cecilia Zalkind, executive director of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which publishes the Kids Count reports. “Their commitment to children in these tough economic times is both critical and commendable.”

“Atlantic County posted improvements in critical measures of child well-being,” Zalkind said. “This is good news. Still, the county continued to lag in certain education and health measures. It’s our hope that county leaders will use this information to build on successes and develop creative solutions to persistent issues.”

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Some key Atlantic County findings follow.

Child Poverty. With 17 percent of Atlantic County's children growing up in poverty, the county ranked 15th on this indicator, up from 17th last year.

Family Income. Median family income increased from \$56,488 to \$58,459 and unemployment dropped from 14 to 12.5 percent.

Education. Atlantic lost a little ground on academic success measures, with a slight drop in the percentage of 8th grade students passing state tests. The county ranked 15th on 8th grade passing rates, a drop from 14th last year.

In addition to the county profiles, which measure progress over a 1-year period, ACNJ also released *New Jersey Kids Count: The State of Our Counties*, a pocket guide that provides a 5-year comparison of various measures of child well-being, including poverty, health, education and child protection.

"We encourage county leaders to use Kids Count data to understand the state of children in their county and to target resources to meet children's most pressing needs," Zalkind said. "Using data to drive decisions results in better outcomes for children and families."

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2011 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2010 County Rank: 4

	Year	County	NJ	2010 Rank	2011 Rank
DEMOGRAPHICS					
Child Population	2009	198,585	2,045,848	1	1
Total Population	2009	895,250	8,707,739	1	1

FAMILY ECONOMICS					
Percentage of Children in Poverty	2009	8	13	5	5
Median Income of Families with Children	2009	\$102,247	\$83,742	5	5
Percentage Unemployed	2010	7.3	8.7	5	4
Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent	2009	47	50	6	5
Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast	2009-10	19.8	28.7	N/A	15

HEALTH AND SAFETY					
Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care	2007	82.8	76.8	8	8
Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19	2007	2.31	6.59	2	3
Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)	2007	3	5	2	4
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations*	2009	23	44	1	2
Children in Out-of-Home Placement*	2010	1.5	3.47	2	1
Juvenile Arrests *	2009	18	24	5	7

*Rate per 1,000 children under 18.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION					
Licensed Center-Based Child Care Supply (slots per 1,000 0-4)	2010	773	640	5	6
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests	2009-10	85	77	3	3
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests	2009-10	86	78	5	5
Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests	2009-10	88	82	4	4



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Bergen Moves Up to 3rd in NJ Kids Count Rankings

Bergen County moved up a notch to 3rd place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measures 15 areas of child well-being, after ranking 4th last year.

The county posted its best mark for a lower-than-average rate of foster care placements, ranking first in the state, with an average of 1.5 per 1,000 children in foster care, less than half the state average of roughly 3.5 percent.

The county received its worst mark for the percentage of eligible children who receive school breakfast. The county ranked 15th on this indicator, with just under 20 percent of eligible children receiving this healthy start to their school day.

“We have been encouraged by the counties’ increased interest in using the information presented in Kids Count to improve child well-being,” said Cecilia Zalkind, executive director of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which publishes the Kids Count reports. “Their commitment to children in these tough economic times is both critical and commendable.”

“Bergen County held relatively steady on most measures,” Zalkind said. “But, the county saw a fairly substantial jump in the percent of its children growing up in poverty,” Zalkind said.

Despite the increase, Bergen still ranked 5th statewide on this measure because child poverty in other counties increased even more.

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Some key Bergen County findings follow.

Child Poverty. The county's child poverty rate rose from 5 to 8 percent but the county's ranking on this indicator remained unchanged at 5th.

Unemployment. The county's unemployment rate showed signs of improvement, dropping from 8 in 2009 to 7.3 percent in 2010, moving the county from 5th to 4th place.

Prenatal Care. Bergen saw a jump in the percentage of women receiving early prenatal care, going from 77 percent in 2006 to nearly 83 percent in 2007.

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Burlington County

2011 County Rank: 8

2011 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2010 County Rank: 11

	Year	County	NJ	2010 Rank	2011 Rank
DEMOGRAPHICS					
Child Population	2009	102,366	2,045,848	11	11
Total Population	2009	446,108	8,707,739	11	11

FAMILY ECONOMICS					
Percentage of Children in Poverty	2009	7	13	6	4
Median Income of Families with Children	2009	\$94,776	\$83,742	6	7
Percentage Unemployed	2010	8.1	8.7	8	8
Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent	2009	47	50	8	5
Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast	2009-10	19.7	28.7	N/A	16

HEALTH AND SAFETY					
Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care	2007	77.5	76.8	13	12
Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19	2007	5.21	6.59	10	9
Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)	2007	5	5	16	12
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations*	2009	45	44	9	9
Children in Out-of-Home Placement*	2010	3.18	3.47	8	9
Juvenile Arrests*	2009	21	24	12	11

*Rate per 1,000 children under 18.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION					
Licensed Center-Based Child Care Supply (slots per 1,000 0-4)	2010	518	640	16	16
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests	2009-10	78	77	10	11
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests	2009-10	80	78	10	11
Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests	2009-10	83	82	8	9



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Burlington Moves Up to 8th in NJ Kids Count Rankings

Burlington County moved up to 8th place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measures 15 areas of child well-being, after ranking 11th last year.

Burlington saw its best improvement on infant mortality, with the rate dropping from 7 babies per 1,000 dying before their first birthday in 2006 to 5 in 2007. This moved the county from 16th to 12th place on this indicator.

The county lost ground on median family income, which dropped from nearly \$97,000 to almost \$95,000, ranking 7th on this indicator, after coming in 6th last year. Students passing 8th grade tests also fell slightly, from 82 in the 2008-09 school year to 80 percent in 2009-10. The ranking on this measure fell from 10 to 11.

“We have been encouraged by the counties’ increased interest in using the information presented in Kids Count to improve child well-being,” said Cecilia Zalkind, executive director of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which publishes the Kids Count reports. “Their commitment to children in these tough economic times is both critical and commendable.”

“Burlington lost some ground in key areas, but improved in its overall rank. And, it was one of the few counties to see an increase in the percent of women receiving early prenatal care,” Zalkind said. “Like many counties, Burlington also experienced an increase in child poverty.”

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Some key Burlington County findings follow.

Child Poverty. The county's child poverty rate rose from 6 to 7 percent but the county's ranking on this indicator actually improved from 6th to 4th because child poverty rose more significantly in other counties.

Prenatal Care. Burlington saw a jump in the percent of women receiving early prenatal care, going from 75 percent in 2006 to 77.5 percent in 2007.

Education. While 8th grade passing rates dropped slightly, 4th and 11th graders posted a slight increase in the rate at which they pass state tests.

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2011 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2010 County Rank: 17

	Year	County	NJ	2010 Rank	2011 Rank
DEMOGRAPHICS					
Child Population	2009	125,759	2,045,848	8	7
Total Population	2009	517,879	8,707,739	8	8

FAMILY ECONOMICS					
Percentage of Children in Poverty	2009	17	13	15	16
Median Income of Families with Children	2009	\$74,390	\$83,742	15	13
Percentage Unemployed	2010	9.7	8.7	14	13
Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent	2009	47	50	15	5
Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast	2009-10	28.7	28.7	N/A	6

HEALTH AND SAFETY					
Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care	2007	70.3	76.8	17	17
Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19	2007	10.73	6.59	19	19
Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)	2007	8	5	19	15
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations*	2009	68	44	18	18
Children in Out-of-Home Placement*	2010	5.92	3.47	16	17
Juvenile Arrests*	2009	58	24	20	21

*Rate per 1,000 children under 18.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION					
Licensed Center-Based Child Care Supply (slots per 1,000 0-4)	2010	628	640	8	10
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests	2009-10	70	77	18	17
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests	2009-10	69	78	15	17
Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests	2009-10	76	82	14	16



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Camden Moves Up to 16th in NJ Kids Count Rankings

Camden County moved up to 16th place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measures 15 areas of child well-being, from 17th last year.

Camden posted its best improvement with its drop in the percentage of households spending too much money on rent, going from 54 to 47 percent of households. The county's rankings improved significantly on this measure, moving up from 15th to 5th.

The county also moved up for a slight drop in its unemployment rate from 11 percent in 2009 to 9.7 percent in 2010, moving from 14th to 13th in the rankings.

However, the county saw more children living in poor families, which increased from 16 to 17 percent of all Camden County children. Its ranking fell to 16th on this important measure of child well-being, from 15th last year.

"We have been encouraged by the counties' increased interest in using the information presented in Kids Count to improve child well-being," said Cecilia Zalkind, executive director of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which publishes the Kids Count reports. "Their commitment to children in these tough economic times is both critical and commendable."

"The county's positive drop in unemployment and households spending too much on rent are encouraging," Zalkind said. "Still, the county lost ground in a couple of key areas, including child poverty and the availability of child care."

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Some key Camden County findings follow.

Child Care. The number of licensed child care center slots available to parents declined from 659 per 1,000 children ages 0 to 4 in 2009 to 628 in 2010.

Education. Passing rates on state tests improved slightly in 4th and 11th grades, but dropped for 8th graders, going from 75 percent in 2008-09 to 69 percent last school year.

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Cape May County

2011 County Rank: 18

2011 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2010 County Rank: 15

	Year	County	NJ	2010 Rank	2011 Rank
DEMOGRAPHICS					
Child Population	2009	18,368	2,045,848	20	20
Total Population	2009	96,091	8,707,739	20	20

FAMILY ECONOMICS					
Percentage of Children in Poverty	2009	12	13	7	11
Median Income of Families with Children	2009	\$52,974	\$83,742	14	20
Percentage Unemployed	2010	13.2	8.7	21	21
Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent	2009	48	50	1	9
Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast	2009-10	44.5	28.7	N/A	2

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care	2007	77.4	76.8	12	13
Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19	2007	9.29	6.59	18	15
Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)	2007	6	5	18	14
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations*	2009	82	44	19	20
Children in Out-of-Home Placement*	2010	8.39	3.47	20	21
Juvenile Arrests*	2009	46	24	21	20

*Rate per 1,000 children under 18.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Licensed Center-Based Child Care Supply (slots per 1,000 0-4)	2010	290	640	21	21
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests	2009-10	76	77	12	12
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests	2009-10	82	78	20	7
Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests	2009-10	83	82	11	11



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Cape May Slips to 18th in NJ Kids Count Rankings

Cape May County slipped to 18th place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measures 15 areas of child well-being, after ranking 15th last year.

The county saw a significant increase in the number of children growing up in poor families, which rose from 7 percent in 2008 to 12 percent in 2009. The county slipped to 11th on this important measure of child well-being, down from 7th in last year's rankings.

Cape May County families also earned significantly less in 2009 than they did in 2008, with the median family income dropping from nearly \$76,000 to about \$53,000. The county dropped from 14th to 20th place on this indicator. The county continued to rank last in the state for its high unemployment rate.

On the positive side, the county posted an impressive increase in the percent of 8th graders passing state tests, going from 66 percent in the 2008-09 school year to 82 percent in 2009-10, surpassing the state average of 78 percent. The county's rank moved from 20th to 7th on this measure.

Cape May also saw a drop in its infant mortality rate, going from 8 babies per 1,000 live births dying before their 1st birthday in 2006 to 6 in 2007.

"We have been encouraged by the counties' increased interest in using the information presented in Kids Count to improve child well-being," said Cecilia Zalkind, executive director of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which publishes the Kids Count reports. "Their commitment to children in these tough economic times is both critical and commendable."

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“Clearly, Cape May County families are struggling financially,” Zalkind said. “But the positive improvement in 8th grade test scores and the drop in infant mortality are positive signs.”

Some key Burlington County findings follow.

Unemployment. While Cape May County continued to rank last in the state for its high unemployment rate of 13.2 percent in 2010, this was an improvement over 2009’s 16 percent unemployment.

Housing Cost. Cape May saw a significant jump in families spending too much on housing, going from 31 percent of households in 2008 to 48 percent in 2009. It had previously ranked 1st on this indicator but fell to 9th place in this year’s rankings.

Child Nutrition. Cape May ranked 2nd in the state for providing school breakfast to low-income children, serving up this healthy start to school to 44.5 percent of eligible children, far surpassing the roughly 29 percent statewide average.

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Cumberland County

2011 County Rank: 21

2011 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2010 County Rank: 20

	Year	County	NJ	2010 Rank	2011 Rank
DEMOGRAPHICS					
Child Population	2009	39,208	2,045,848	16	16
Total Population	2009	157,745	8,707,739	16	16

FAMILY ECONOMICS					
Percentage of Children in Poverty	2009	23	13	18	20
Median Income of Families with Children	2009	\$54,345	\$83,742	21	19
Percentage Unemployed	2010	12.8	8.7	20	20
Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent	2009	59	50	18	19
Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast	2009-10	43.3	28.7	N/A	3

HEALTH AND SAFETY					
Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care	2007	62	76.8	20	21
Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19	2007	16.21	6.59	21	21
Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)	2007	11	5	13	20
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations*	2009	93	44	21	21
Children in Out-of-Home Placement*	2010	6.5	3.47	17	20
Juvenile Arrests*	2009	37	24	19	18

*Rate per 1,000 children under 18.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION					
Licensed Center-Based Child Care Supply (slots per 1,000 0-4)	2010	563	640	11	12
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests	2009-10	62	77	21	21
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests	2009-10	63	78	21	21
Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests	2009-10	66	82	21	21



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Cumberland Slips to 21st in NJ Kids Count Rankings

Cumberland County slipped to 21st place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measures 15 areas of child well-being, after moving up a notch last year to 20th.

The county saw a significant increase in the number of children growing up in poor families, which rose from 19 percent in 2008 to 23 percent in 2009. The county slipped to 20th on this important measure of child well-being, down from 18th last year.

Cumberland also slipped in the rankings on the rate at which its children are placed in foster care. Although the actual rate dropped slightly – from 7 per 1,000 children in 2009 to 6.5 in 2010 – the county dropped from 17th to 20th on this measure. This is because other counties posted stronger improvements in reducing the number of children entering the state’s foster care system.

There is some good news. Juvenile arrests declined from 37 youths per 1,000 in 2008 to 37 in 2009. The county moved from 19th to 18th place on this measure. Cumberland also ranked 3rd in the state for providing school breakfast to needy children.

“We have been encouraged by the counties’ increased interest in using the information presented in Kids Count to improve child well-being,” said Cecilia Zalkind, executive director of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which publishes the Kids Count reports. “Their commitment to children in these tough economic times is both critical and commendable.”

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“This significant rise in child poverty is alarming, despite other statistics that suggest Cumberland families may be at the start of a recovery,” Zalkind said. “The drop in juvenile arrests is positive and Cumberland should be commended for providing children with a healthy start to school.”

Some key Cumberland County findings follow.

Family Income. While child poverty rose, the county’s unemployment rate dropped slightly from 14 percent in 2009 to 12.8 percent in 2010, while median family income inched up from \$49,394 in 2008 to \$54,345, possibly signaling that the county is beginning to regain lost ground.

Infant Mortality. Cumberland’s infant mortality rate rose from 5 deaths per 1,000 live births within a child’s first year in 2006 to 11 in 2007. The county dropped from 13th to 20th on this measure.

Education. Cumberland County students had the lowest passing rates on state tests for all three grades – 4th, 8th and 11th.

In addition to the county profiles, which measure progress over a 1-year period, ACNJ also released *New Jersey Kids Count: The State of Our Counties*, a pocket guide that provides a 5-year comparison of various measures of child well-being, including poverty, health, education and child protection.

“We encourage county leaders to use Kids Count data to understand the state of children in their county and to target resources to meet children’s most pressing needs,” Zalkind said. “Using data to drive decisions results in better outcomes for children and families.”

To view the county profiles and the pocket guide, go to www.acnj.org.

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2011 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2010 County Rank: 13

	Year	County	NJ	2010 Rank	2011 Rank
DEMOGRAPHICS					
Child Population	2009	193,289	2,045,848	2	2
Total Population	2009	769,644	8,707,739	3	3

FAMILY ECONOMICS					
Percentage of Children in Poverty	2009	21	13	19	18
Median Income of Families with Children	2009	\$58,069	\$83,742	18	18
Percentage Unemployed	2010	10.2	8.7	15	16
Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent	2009	52	50	11	11
Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast	2009-10	50.3	28.7	N/A	1

HEALTH AND SAFETY					
Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care	2007	65.1	76.8	21	20
Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19	2007	9.38	6.59	16	17
Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)	2007	8	5	15	17
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations*	2009	49	44	13	13
Children in Out-of-Home Placement*	2010	6.27	3.47	21	19
Juvenile Arrests*	2009	21	24	8	10

*Rate per 1,000 children under 18.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION					
Licensed Center-Based Child Care Supply (slots per 1,000 0-4)	2010	793	640	4	4
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests	2009-10	71	77	17	15
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests	2009-10	69	78	18	18
Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests	2009-10	71	82	20	20



To view data sources and for more information, visit www.acnj.org

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NEWS



For Immediate Release

May 23, 2011

Contact: Nancy Parello, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031

Essex Slips to 15th in NJ Kids Count Rankings

Essex County slipped to 15th place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measures 15 areas of child well-being, after ranking 13th last year.

The county saw an increase in infant mortality, going from 6 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2006 to 8 in 2007, the latest year for which health statistics are available. Essex dropped to 17th place on this measure from 15th last year.

The county also lost ground on birth to teenagers, which increased slightly from 9 percent of all births in 2006 to 9.4 in 2007. Essex dropped to 17th on this measure from 15th last year.

On the positive side, Essex ranked first in the state for providing school breakfast to eligible children. The county also saw a slight increase in women receiving prenatal care and a strong drop in the number of children entering the state's foster care system.

"We have been encouraged by the counties' increased interest in using the information presented in Kids Count to improve child well-being," said Cecilia Zalkind, executive director of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which publishes the Kids Count reports. "Their commitment to children in these tough economic times is both critical and commendable."

"The increase in both infant mortality and births to teens is concerning," Zalkind said. "Essex should be commended for its efforts to give more children a healthy breakfast to start the school day and the improvement in prenatal care is a step forward."

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Some key Essex County findings follow.

Child Poverty. While child poverty increased slightly in Essex – from 20 percent of children in 2008 to 21 percent in 2009 – the county’s ranking actually improved on this indicator, as other counties saw much sharper increases in child poverty.

School Breakfast. Essex provided school breakfast to half of all eligible children, far outpacing the statewide average of about 29 percent.

Foster Care. The rate at which children were placed in foster care dropped from 10 per 1,000 children in 2009 to about 6 in 2010.

In addition to the county profiles, which measure progress over a 1-year period, ACNJ also released *New Jersey Kids Count: The State of Our Counties*, a pocket guide that provides a 5-year comparison of various measures of child well-being, including poverty, health, education and child protection.

“We encourage county leaders to use Kids Count data to understand the state of children in their county and to target resources to meet children’s most pressing needs,” Zalkind said. “Using data to drive decisions results in better outcomes for children and families.”

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Gloucester County

2011 County Rank: 12

2011 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2010 County Rank: 12

	Year	County	NJ	2010 Rank	2011 Rank
DEMOGRAPHICS					
Child Population	2009	68,703	2,045,848	14	14
Total Population	2009	289,920	8,707,739	14	14

FAMILY ECONOMICS					
Percentage of Children in Poverty	2009	11	13	9	10
Median Income of Families with Children	2009	\$88,771	\$83,742	9	9
Percentage Unemployed	2010	9.3	8.7	12	12
Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent	2009	55	50	13	16
Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast	2009-10	20.5	28.7	N/A	13

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care	2007	81.3	76.8	11	9
Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19	2007	5.93	6.59	11	11
Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)	2007	5	5	7	11
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations*	2009	53	44	15	15
Children in Out-of-Home Placement*	2010	4.03	3.47	13	13
Juvenile Arrests*	2009	22	24	13	13

*Rate per 1,000 children under 18.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Licensed Center-Based Child Care Supply (slots per 1,000 0-4)	2010	580	640	12	11
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests	2009-10	79	77	9	10
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests	2009-10	80	78	9	10
Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests	2009-10	86	82	8	7



To view data sources and for more information, visit www.acnj.org

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NEWS



For Immediate Release

May 25, 2011

Contact: Nancy Parello, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031

Gloucester Holds Steady at 12th in NJ Kids Count Rankings

Gloucester County held steady at 12th place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measures 15 areas of child well-being.

The county saw an increase in child poverty, going from 8 percent in 2008 to 11 percent in 2009. Gloucester dropped in the rankings from 10th to 9th on this important measure of child well-being.

At the same time, Gloucester saw a rise in the percent of women receiving early prenatal care from 75 percent in 2006 to about 81 percent in 2007. The county ranked 9th in the state on this indicator, an improvement from its 11th spot last year. Gains were also made in more 11th graders passing state tests.

“We have been encouraged by the counties’ increased interest in using the information presented in Kids Count to improve child well-being,” said Cecilia Zalkind, executive director of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which publishes the Kids Count reports. “Their commitment to children in these tough economic times is both critical and commendable.”

“The rise in child poverty is concerning, although on most indicators Gloucester County saw little movement or slight improvement,” Zalkind said. “The increase in 11th graders passing state tests is encouraging.”

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Some key Gloucester County findings follow.

Education. The rate at which 11th graders passed statewide tests improved from 82 percent in the 2008-09 school year to 86 percent in 2009-10. Eighth grade pass rates, however, dropped from 83 to 80 percent, while 4th grade pass rates improved slightly from 78 to 79 percent.

Juvenile Arrests. Gloucester's juvenile arrest rate dropped from 27 youth per 1,000 in 2008 to 22 in 2009, but the county's ranking on this indicator remained unchanged at 13th statewide.

In addition to the county profiles, which measure progress over a 1-year period, ACNJ also released *New Jersey Kids Count: The State of Our Counties*, a pocket guide that provides a 5-year comparison of various measures of child well-being, including poverty, health, education and child protection.

"We encourage county leaders to use Kids Count data to understand the state of children in their county and to target resources to meet children's most pressing needs," Zalkind said. "Using data to drive decisions results in better outcomes for children and families."

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Hudson County

2011 County Rank: 14

2011 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2010 County Rank: 18

	Year	County	NJ	2010 Rank	2011 Rank
DEMOGRAPHICS					
Child Population	2009	122,659	2,045,848	6	9
Total Population	2009	597,924	8,707,739	5	5

FAMILY ECONOMICS					
Percentage of Children in Poverty	2009	23	13	21	19
Median Income of Families with Children	2009	\$49,164	\$83,742	20	21
Percentage Unemployed	2010	9.9	8.7	16	14
Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent	2009	44	50	9	2
Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast	2009-10	20.3	28.7	N/A	14

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care	2007	74.9	76.8	19	14
Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19	2007	8.59	6.59	13	13
Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)	2007	5	5	11	9
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations*	2009	50	44	12	14
Children in Out-of-Home Placement*	2010	4.64	3.47	15	14
Juvenile Arrests*	2009	20	24	11	9

*Rate per 1,000 children under 18.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Licensed Center-Based Child Care Supply (slots per 1,000 0-4)	2010	543	640	15	15
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests	2009-10	69	77	19	18
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests	2009-10	69	78	17	19
Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests	2009-10	72	82	19	19



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NEWS



For Immediate Release

May 23, 2011

Contact: Nancy Parello, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031

Hudson Moves Up to 14th in NJ Kids Count Rankings

Hudson County moved up to 14th place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measures 15 areas of child well-being, from 18th last year.

The county saw its biggest improvement in a drop in the percentage of households paying too much for housing, declining from 49 percent in 2008 to 44 percent in 2009. The county moved up to 2nd place on this indicator, from 9th last year.

Hudson also saw improvements in its unemployment rate, the percentage of women receiving early prenatal care, children in foster care and juvenile arrests.

"We have been encouraged by the counties' increased interest in using the information presented in Kids Count to improve child well-being," said Cecilia Zalkind, executive director of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which publishes the Kids Count reports. "Their commitment to children in these tough economic times is both critical and commendable."

"This is good news for Hudson," Zalkind said. "These gains provide a foundation for strengthening efforts to improve the well-being of all Hudson County children."

Some key Hudson County findings follow.

Child Poverty. The percentage of children growing up in poor families remained unchanged in Hudson at 23 percent, but the county moved from last place to 19th on this indicator, as other counties saw significant increases in child poverty.

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Prenatal Care. Nearly 75 percent of Hudson women received early prenatal care in 2007, up from 65 percent in 2006. The county moved from 14th to 19th place on this measure of child well-being.

Juvenile Arrests. Hudson's juvenile arrest rate dropped from 23 youth per 1,000 in 2008 to 20 in 2009, moving the county from 11th to 9th place.

In addition to the county profiles, which measure progress over a 1-year period, ACNJ also released *New Jersey Kids Count: The State of Our Counties*, a pocket guide that provides a 5-year comparison of various measures of child well-being, including poverty, health, education and child protection.

"We encourage county leaders to use Kids Count data to understand the state of children in their county and to target resources to meet children's most pressing needs," Zalkind said. "Using data to drive decisions results in better outcomes for children and families."

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Hunterdon County

2011 County Rank: 1

2011 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2010 County Rank: 3

	Year	County	NJ	2010 Rank	2011 Rank
DEMOGRAPHICS					
Child Population	2009	30,701	2,045,848	18	18
Total Population	2009	130,034	8,707,739	18	18

FAMILY ECONOMICS					
Percentage of Children in Poverty	2009	5	13	3	3
Median Income of Families with Children	2009	\$130,527	\$83,742	2	1
Percentage Unemployed	2010	6.2	8.7	1	1
Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent	2009	47	50	17	5
Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast	2009-10	8.4	28.7	N/A	21

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care	2007	88.3	76.8	3	1
Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19	2007	1.41	6.59	1	1
Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)	2007	3	5	4	2
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations*	2009	22	44	2	1
Children in Out-of-Home Placement*	2010	1.52	3.47	1	2
Juvenile Arrests*	2009	11	24	2	1

*Rate per 1,000 children under 18.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Licensed Center-Based Child Care Supply (slots per 1,000 0-4)	2010	1,099	640	1	1
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests	2009-10	87	77	1	1
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests	2009-10	91	78	1	1
Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests	2009-10	93	82	1	1



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May 23, 2011

Contact: Nancy Parello, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031

Hunterdon Moves Back Up to 1st in NJ Kids Count Rankings

Hunterdon County reclaimed its 1st place position in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measures 15 areas of child well-being, after dropping to 3rd last year.

The county saw its best improvement in a drop in the percentage of households spending too much on rent, from 55 percent in 2008 to 47 percent in 2009. This moved Hunterdon from 17th to 5th place in the Kids Count rankings.

The county also posted gains in median family income, infant mortality and juvenile arrests.

"We have been encouraged by the counties' increased interest in using the information presented in Kids Count to improve child well-being," said Cecilia Zalkind, executive director of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which publishes the Kids Count reports. "Their commitment to children in these tough economic times is both critical and commendable."

"Families in Hunterdon County continue to benefit from above-average family income and other economic indicators that tend to improve outcomes for children across the board," Zalkind said.

Some key Hunterdon County findings follow.

Child Poverty. The percentage of Hunterdon children living in families earning too little to provide for their needs increased from 3 percent in 2008 to 5 percent in 2009. The

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county's rank on this measure remained unchanged at 3rd, as most counties continued to have higher overall child poverty rates.

Family Income. In 2009, Hunterdon families earned a median income of \$130,527 – the highest in the state. The county moved from 2nd to 1st place on this measure.

Education. Hunterdon students ranked 1st on passing state tests at all three grade levels – 4th, 8th and 11th -- surpassing statewide averages.

In addition to the county profiles, which measure progress over a 1-year period, ACNJ also released *New Jersey Kids Count: The State of Our Counties*, a pocket guide that provides a 5-year comparison of various measures of child well-being, including poverty, health, education and child protection.

“We encourage county leaders to use Kids Count data to understand the state of children in their county and to target resources to meet children’s most pressing needs,” Zalkind said. “Using data to drive decisions results in better outcomes for children and families.”

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Mercer County

2011 County Rank: 11

2011 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2010 County Rank: 9

	Year	County	NJ	2010 Rank	2011 Rank
DEMOGRAPHICS					
Child Population	2009	83,985	2,045,848	12	12
Total Population	2009	366,222	8,707,739	12	12

FAMILY ECONOMICS					
Percentage of Children in Poverty	2009	15	13	11	14
Median Income of Families with Children	2009	\$88,173	\$83,742	7	10
Percentage Unemployed	2010	7.3	8.7	4	4
Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent	2009	48	50	10	9
Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast	2009-10	22	28.7	N/A	12

HEALTH AND SAFETY					
Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care	2007	77.8	76.8	9	11
Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19	2007	8.63	6.59	14	14
Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)	2007	8	5	20	16
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations*	2009	48	44	11	11
Children in Out-of-Home Placement*	2010	3.95	3.47	14	12
Juvenile Arrests*	2009	43	24	18	19

*Rate per 1,000 children under 18.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION					
Licensed Center-Based Child Care Supply (slots per 1,000 0-4)	2010	870	640	2	3
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests	2009-10	74	77	13	14
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests	2009-10	76	78	12	13
Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests	2009-10	80	82	13	13



To view data sources and for more information, visit www.acnj.org

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May 23, 2011

Contact: Nancy Parello, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031

Mercer Slips to 11th in NJ Kids Count Rankings

Mercer County slipped to 11th place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measures 15 areas of child well-being, from 9th last year.

The county lost ground with an increase in child poverty from 12 percent in 2008 to 15 percent in 2009. Mercer dropped to 14th on this indicator from 11th last year. The county also saw a drop in median family income from \$94,160 in 2008 to \$88,173 in 2009, dropping from 10th to 7th place in the Kids Count rankings.

Mercer posted gains in reducing the rate at which children are placed in foster care and saw a slight improvement in lower housing costs for families.

“We have been encouraged by the counties’ increased interest in using the information presented in Kids Count to improve child well-being,” said Cecilia Zalkind, executive director of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which publishes the Kids Count reports. “Their commitment to children in these tough economic times is both critical and commendable.”

“The rise in child poverty and the drop in family income are concerning,” Zalkind said.

Some key Mercer County findings follow.

Housing Costs. Fewer Mercer families spent too much on rent, dropping from 50 percent of all households in 2008 to 48 percent in 2009. The county moved up the Kids Count rankings from 10th to 9th place on this measure.

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Foster Care. The rate at which children were placed into foster care dropped from 5 per 1,000 children in 2008 to about 4 in 2010. The county moved up from 14th to 12th place on this indicator.

Juvenile Arrests. Unlike most counties, Mercer saw an increase in its juvenile arrest rate, going from 40 youth per 1,000 in 2008 to 43 in 2009. The county dropped from 18th to 19th in the Kids Count rankings on this measure.

In addition to the county profiles, which measure progress over a 1-year period, ACNJ also released *New Jersey Kids Count: The State of Our Counties*, a pocket guide that provides a 5-year comparison of various measures of child well-being, including poverty, health, education and child protection.

“We encourage county leaders to use Kids Count data to understand the state of children in their county and to target resources to meet children’s most pressing needs,” Zalkind said. “Using data to drive decisions results in better outcomes for children and families.”

To view the county profiles and the pocket guide, go to www.acnj.org.

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Middlesex County

2011 County Rank: 5

2011 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2010 County Rank: 5

	Year	County	NJ	2010 Rank	2011 Rank
DEMOGRAPHICS					
Child Population	2009	184,267	2,045,848	3	3
Total Population	2009	790,738	8,707,739	2	2

FAMILY ECONOMICS					
Percentage of Children in Poverty	2009	10	13	10	9
Median Income of Families with Children	2009	\$96,005	\$83,742	8	6
Percentage Unemployed	2010	7.7	8.7	6	6
Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent	2009	44	50	3	2
Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast	2009-10	23.6	28.7	N/A	10

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care	2007	83.5	76.8	6	7
Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19	2007	4.22	6.59	6	6
Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)	2007	4	5	12	6
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations*	2009	33	44	5	6
Children in Out-of-Home Placement*	2010	2.08	3.47	6	7
Juvenile Arrests*	2009	15	24	3	4

*Rate per 1,000 children under 18.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Licensed Center-Based Child Care Supply (slots per 1,000 0-4)	2010	558	640	13	13
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests	2009-10	80	77	10	8
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests	2009-10	79	78	11	12
Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests	2009-10	85	82	8	8



To view data sources and for more information, visit www.acnj.org

Special thanks to the Annie E. Casey Foundation for its technical and financial support.



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NEWS



For Immediate Release

May 23, 2011

Contact: Nancy Parello, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031

Middlesex County Held Steady at 5th Place in NJ Kids Count Rankings

Middlesex County held steady at 5th place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measures 15 areas of child well-being.

The county saw improvements in median family income, which rose from \$92,492 in 2008 to \$96,005 in 2009, moving the county to 6th to 8th. Middlesex also saw a decrease in infant mortality and a slight increase in 4th graders passing state tests.

While the county improved on some other measures, such as an increase in the percentage of women receiving early prenatal care, its standings on some of the individual Kids Count rankings dropped slightly, as other counties performed better on those measures.

“We have been encouraged by the counties’ increased interest in using the information presented in Kids Count to improve child well-being,” said Cecilia Zalkind, executive director of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which publishes the Kids Count reports. “Their commitment to children in these tough economic times is both critical and commendable.”

“The increase in family income and decline in infant mortality are very positive signs for Middlesex County,” Zalkind said.

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Some key Middlesex County findings follow.

Prenatal Care. The percentage of women receiving early prenatal care rose from 81 percent in 2006 to 83.5 in 2007 – a positive increase. However, the county’s ranking fell from 6th to 7th on this measure, as other counties posted stronger improvements.

Infant Mortality. The county’s infant mortality rate dropped from 5 deaths per 1,000 live births during a child’s first year in 2006 to 4 in 2007. The county moved from 12th to 6th place on this measure.

Juvenile Arrests. Middlesex’s juvenile arrest rate fell from 16 youth per 1,000 in 2008 to 15 in 2009. Again, however, the county slipped in the Kids Count rankings from 3rd to 4th as other counties saw greater reductions in juvenile crime.

Education. The percentage of 4th graders passing state tests rose from 77 percent in the 2008-09 school year to 80 percent in 2009-10. The county moved from 10th to 8th place on this important measure.

In addition to the county profiles, which measure progress over a 1-year period, ACNJ also released *New Jersey Kids Count: The State of Our Counties*, a pocket guide that provides a 5-year comparison of various measures of child well-being, including poverty, health, education and child protection.

“We encourage county leaders to use Kids Count data to understand the state of children in their county and to target resources to meet children’s most pressing needs,” Zalkind said. “Using data to drive decisions results in better outcomes for children and families.”

To view the county profiles and the pocket guide, go to www.acnj.org.

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Monmouth County

2011 County Rank: 6

2011 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2010 County Rank: 6

	Year	County	NJ	2010 Rank	2011 Rank
DEMOGRAPHICS					
Child Population	2009	153,862	2,045,848	4	4
Total Population	2009	644,105	8,707,739	4	4

FAMILY ECONOMICS					
Percentage of Children in Poverty	2009	9	13	8	6
Median Income of Families with Children	2009	\$104,052	\$83,742	4	4
Percentage Unemployed	2010	7.9	8.7	7	7
Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent	2009	53	50	16	13
Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast	2009-10	26	28.7	N/A	8

HEALTH AND SAFETY					
Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care	2007	84.2	76.8	7	6
Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19	2007	4.49	6.59	9	8
Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)	2007	3	5	10	5
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations*	2009	34	44	6	7
Children in Out-of-Home Placement*	2010	2.07	3.47	7	6
Juvenile Arrests*	2009	25	24	15	15

*Rate per 1,000 children under 18.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION					
Licensed Center-Based Child Care Supply (slots per 1,000 0-4)	2010	679	640	10	7
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests	2009-10	81	77	8	6
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests	2009-10	86	78	6	6
Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests	2009-10	88	82	5	5



To view data sources and for more information, visit www.acnj.org

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NEWS



For Immediate Release

May 23, 2011

Contact: Nancy Parello, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031

Monmouth Holds Steady at 6th in NJ Kids Count Rankings

Monmouth County held steady at 6th place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measures 15 areas of child well-being.

The county saw improvements in the percentage of women receiving early prenatal care, going from 78 percent in 2006 to 84 percent in 2006. Monmouth moved from 7th to 6th in the Kids Count rankings on this indicator.

Monmouth also improved on its infant mortality rate, amount of foster care placements and availability of child care.

The county, however, saw a slight increase in child poverty, which rose from 8 percent in 2008 to 9 percent in 2009. Despite this increase, Monmouth moved up in the rankings from 8th to 6th, as other counties saw larger increases in the percentage of children living in families that struggled to provide basic needs.

“We have been encouraged by the counties’ increased interest in using the information presented in Kids Count to improve child well-being,” said Cecilia Zalkind, executive director of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which publishes the Kids Count reports. “Their commitment to children in these tough economic times is both critical and commendable.”

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“Monmouth saw some very positive movement this year on several indicators of child well-being, including early prenatal care, infant mortality, teen births, foster care placements and child care supply,” Zalkind said. “That’s good news.”

Some key Monmouth County findings follow.

Infant Mortality. The county’s infant mortality rate fell from 5 deaths per 1,000 live births during a child’s first year in 2006 to 3 in 2007. That moved the county from 10th to 5th place in the Kids Count rankings.

Foster Care. The rate at which children were placed into foster care dropped from 3 per 1,000 children in 2008 to about 2 in 2010. The county moved up from 7th to 6th place on this indicator.

Child Care. Monmouth parents had more child care to choose from, with the supply going from 621 slots per 1,000 children ages 0-4 in 2009 to 679 in 2010. That moved the county from 10th to 7th on this measure.

In addition to the county profiles, which measure progress over a 1-year period, ACNJ also released *New Jersey Kids Count: The State of Our Counties*, a pocket guide that provides a 5-year comparison of various measures of child well-being, including poverty, health, education and child protection.

“We encourage county leaders to use Kids Count data to understand the state of children in their county and to target resources to meet children’s most pressing needs,” Zalkind said. “Using data to drive decisions results in better outcomes for children and families.”

To view the county profiles and the pocket guide, go to www.acnj.org.

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2011 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2010 County Rank: 1

	Year	County	NJ	2010 Rank	2011 Rank
DEMOGRAPHICS					
Child Population	2009	116,662	2,045,848	10	10
Total Population	2009	488,518	8,707,739	10	10

FAMILY ECONOMICS					
Percentage of Children in Poverty	2009	3	13	4	1
Median Income of Families with Children	2009	\$130,121	\$83,742	3	2
Percentage Unemployed	2010	6.3	8.7	2	2
Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent	2009	43	50	2	1
Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast	2009-10	14.4	28.7	N/A	18

HEALTH AND SAFETY					
Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care	2007	86.8	76.8	4	4
Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19	2007	2.02	6.59	3	2
Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)	2007	4	5	1	7
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations*	2009	32	44	3	4
Children in Out-of-Home Placement*	2010	1.71	3.47	3	3
Juvenile Arrests*	2009	15	24	1	3

*Rate per 1,000 children under 18.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION					
Licensed Center-Based Child Care Supply (slots per 1,000 0-4)	2010	783	640	6	5
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests	2009-10	86	77	2	2
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests	2009-10	90	78	2	2
Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests	2009-10	90	82	2	2



To view data sources and for more information, visit www.acnj.org

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For Immediate Release

May 23, 2011

Contact: Nancy Parello, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031

Morris Slips to 2nd in NJ Kids Count Rankings

Morris County slipped to 2nd place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measures 15 areas of child well-being, after being 1st last year.

Despite the drop in ranking, the county saw improvements in several areas. The percentage of child living in poverty dropped from 4 percent in 2008 to 3 percent in 2009, moving Morris to the top spot in the state on this measure.

Morris County families also earned more in 2009, with a median income of \$130,121, compared to \$124,313 in 2008. The county ranked 2nd on this indicator, up from 3rd last year.

Morris lost ground in the rankings on infant mortality, with the rate increasing from 3 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2006 to 4 in 2006, pushing Morris from 1st to 7th place.

"We have been encouraged by the counties' increased interest in using the information presented in Kids Count to improve child well-being," said Cecilia Zalkind, executive director of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which publishes the Kids Count reports. "Their commitment to children in these tough economic times is both critical and commendable."

"Morris saw some very positive movement this year on several indicators of child well-being, including child poverty and the child care supply. That's good news," Zalkind said. "The rise in infant mortality is concerning and should be examined."

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Some key Morris County findings follow.

Child Care. Morris parents had more child care to choose from, with the supply going from 700 slots per 1,000 children ages 0-4 in 2009 to 783 in 2010. That moved the county from 10th to 7th on this measure.

Education. Morris school children continued to outperform their peers in other counties, with Morris ranking 2nd in the state on the percentage of children passing state tests in 4th, 8th and 11th grades.

In addition to the county profiles, which measure progress over a 1-year period, ACNJ also released *New Jersey Kids Count: The State of Our Counties*, a pocket guide that provides a 5-year comparison of various measures of child well-being, including poverty, health, education and child protection.

“We encourage county leaders to use Kids Count data to understand the state of children in their county and to target resources to meet children’s most pressing needs,” Zalkind said. “Using data to drive decisions results in better outcomes for children and families.”

To view the county profiles and the pocket guide, go to www.acnj.org.

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2011 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2010 County Rank: 14

	Year	County	NJ	2010 Rank	2011 Rank
DEMOGRAPHICS					
Child Population	2009	132,162	2,045,848	5	5
Total Population	2009	573,678	8,707,739	6	6

FAMILY ECONOMICS					
Percentage of Children in Poverty	2009	13	13	14	12
Median Income of Families with Children	2009	\$76,656	\$83,742	13	12
Percentage Unemployed	2010	9.9	8.7	13	14
Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent	2009	60	50	21	20
Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast	2009-10	19.1	28.7	N/A	17

HEALTH AND SAFETY					
Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care	2007	79	76.8	10	10
Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19	2007	4.39	6.59	8	7
Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)	2007	4	5	5	8
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations*	2009	46	44	8	10
Children in Out-of-Home Placement*	2010	2.25	3.47	10	8
Juvenile Arrests*	2009	16	24	6	6

*Rate per 1,000 children under 18.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION					
Licensed Center-Based Child Care Supply (slots per 1,000 0-4)	2010	337	640	19	20
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests	2009-10	80	77	5	7
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests	2009-10	82	78	7	8
Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests	2009-10	82	82	12	12



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May 23, 2011

Contact: Nancy Parello, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031

Ocean Moves Up to 13th in NJ Kids Count Rankings

Ocean County moved up to 13th place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measures 15 areas of child well-being, after being 14th last year.

The county saw its strongest improvement in a drop in child poverty, declining from 16 percent of Ocean County children in 2008 to 13 percent in 2009. This moved the county from 14th to 12th in the Kids Count rankings.

Ocean also saw a decrease in the percentage of children entering foster care, dropping from 4 children per 1,000 in 2009 to about 2 in 2008. This moved the county to 8th from 10th last year.

“We have been encouraged by the counties’ increased interest in using the information presented in Kids Count to improve child well-being,” said Cecilia Zalkind, executive director of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which publishes the Kids Count reports. “Their commitment to children in these tough economic times is both critical and commendable.”

“Ocean saw some positive movement this year on several indicators of child well-being, including child poverty and foster care placements. That’s good news,” Zalkind said. “Still, Ocean lags on key measures, including the availability of child care and high housing costs.”

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Some key Ocean County findings follow.

Child Care. Ocean ranked nearly last in the state for its supply of child care. The supply decreased from 377 licensed slots per 1,000 children ages 0-4 in 2009 to 337 in 2010. That moved the county from 19th to 20th on this measure.

Housing Costs. Ocean saw an improvement on the percentage of households paying too much for rent, going from 75 percent in 2008 to 60 percent in 2009. Still, the county ranked 20th on this indicator, up from 21st last year.

In addition to the county profiles, which measure progress over a 1-year period, ACNJ also released *New Jersey Kids Count: The State of Our Counties*, a pocket guide that provides a 5-year comparison of various measures of child well-being, including poverty, health, education and child protection.

“We encourage county leaders to use Kids Count data to understand the state of children in their county and to target resources to meet children’s most pressing needs,” Zalkind said. “Using data to drive decisions results in better outcomes for children and families.”

To view the county profiles and the pocket guide, go to www.acnj.org.

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2011 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2010 County Rank: 16

	Year	County	NJ	2010 Rank	2011 Rank
DEMOGRAPHICS					
Child Population	2009	124,538	2,045,848	9	8
Total Population	2009	491,778	8,707,739	9	9

FAMILY ECONOMICS					
Percentage of Children in Poverty	2009	26	13	20	21
Median Income of Families with Children	2009	\$60,751	\$83,742	17	16
Percentage Unemployed	2010	10.2	8.7	17	16
Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent	2009	61	50	20	21
Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast	2009-10	24.3	28.7	N/A	9

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care	2007	71.8	76.8	16	15
Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19	2007	9.35	6.59	15	16
Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)	2007	5	5	14	10
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations*	2009	49	44	10	12
Children in Out-of-Home Placement*	2010	3.19	3.47	9	10
Juvenile Arrests*	2009	25	24	16	14

*Rate per 1,000 children under 18.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Licensed Center-Based Child Care Supply (slots per 1,000 0-4)	2010	647	640	9	8
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests	2009-10	66	77	20	20
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests	2009-10	67	78	18	20
Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests	2009-10	74	82	17	18

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May 23, 2011

Contact: Nancy Parello, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031

Passaic Slips to 17th in NJ Kids Count Rankings

Passaic County slipped to 17th place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measures 15 areas of child well-being, from 16th last year.

The county lost ground on child poverty, which rose from 22 percent in 2008 to 26 percent in 2009. The county ranked last in the state on this important measure of child well-being, down from 20th last year.

More Passaic households also spent too much money on rent, going from 59 percent in 2008 to 61 percent in 2009, dropping the county to last place from 20th last year. Passaic 8th graders also lost a little ground, with their pass rates on state tests dropping from 69 to 67 percent, moving Passaic into 20th place from 18th last year.

There was some positive movement, including a drop in unemployment and infant mortality and an increase in child care supply.

“We have been encouraged by the counties’ increased interest in using the information presented in Kids Count to improve child well-being,” said Cecilia Zalkind, executive director of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which publishes the Kids Count reports. “Their commitment to children in these tough economic times is both critical and commendable.”

“The rise in child poverty is concerning, as are high housing costs,” Zalkind said. “But Passaic did see some positive movement and should try to build on those successes.”

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Some key Passaic County findings follow.

Unemployment. Passaic's unemployment rate dropped from 12 percent in 2009 to about 10 percent in 2010, moving the county from 17th to 16th in the Kids Count rankings.

Infant Mortality. Passaic's infant mortality rate dropped from 6 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2006 to 5 in 2007, moving the county from 14th to 10th place in the rankings.

Child Care. Passaic parents had more child care to choose from, with the rate rising from 633 licensed slots per 1,000 children ages 0-4 in 2009 to 647 in 2010. The county moved from 9th to 8th on this measure.

In addition to the county profiles, which measure progress over a 1-year period, ACNJ also released *New Jersey Kids Count: The State of Our Counties*, a pocket guide that provides a 5-year comparison of various measures of child well-being, including poverty, health, education and child protection.

"We encourage county leaders to use Kids Count data to understand the state of children in their county and to target resources to meet children's most pressing needs," Zalkind said. "Using data to drive decisions results in better outcomes for children and families."

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Salem County

2011 County Rank: 20

2011 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2010 County Rank: 19

	Year	County	NJ	2010 Rank	2011 Rank
DEMOGRAPHICS					
Child Population	2009	15,559	2,045,848	21	21
Total Population	2009	66,342	8,707,739	21	21

FAMILY ECONOMICS					
Percentage of Children in Poverty	2009	18	13	16	17
Median Income of Families with Children	2009	\$68,309	\$83,742	16	15
Percentage Unemployed	2010	10.8	8.7	18	18
Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent	2009	57	50	14	18
Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast	2009-10	26.2	28.7	N/A	7

HEALTH AND SAFETY					
Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care	2007	66.2	76.8	15	19
Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19	2007	13.88	6.59	17	20
Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)	2007	14	5	17	21
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations*	2009	76	44	20	19
Children in Out-of-Home Placement*	2010	5.61	3.47	19	16
Juvenile Arrests*	2009	37	24	14	17

*Rate per 1,000 children under 18.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION					
Licensed Center-Based Child Care Supply (slots per 1,000 0-4)	2010	363	640	20	18
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests	2009-10	68	77	13	19
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests	2009-10	75	78	13	14
Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests	2009-10	78	82	18	14



To view data sources and for more information, visit www.acnj.org

Special thanks to the Annie E. Casey Foundation for its technical and financial support.



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May 23, 2011

Contact: Nancy Parello, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031

Salem Slips to 20th in NJ Kids Count Rankings

Salem County slipped to 20th place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measures 15 areas of child well-being, from 19th last year.

The county lost ground on several key indicators, including households paying too much for rent, women receiving prenatal care, birth to teens, infant mortality, juvenile arrests and 4th graders passing state tests.

The county did post some improvements, including a drop in the rate at which children are placed in foster care, more child care and a rise in 11th graders passing state tests.

“We have been encouraged by the counties’ increased interest in using the information presented in Kids Count to improve child well-being,” said Cecilia Zalkind, executive director of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which publishes the Kids Count reports. “Their commitment to children in these tough economic times is both critical and commendable.”

“There are several concerning trends in Salem that should be examined,” Zalkind said. “To see the county lose ground on so many indicators of child well-being is disappointing. However, fewer children in foster care and more available child care are positive signs.”

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Some key Salem County findings follow.

Child Health. Salem lost ground on several health indicators, including a drop in women receiving early prenatal care, going from 71 percent in 2006 to 66 percent in 2007, with its rank dropping from 15th to 19th. During the same time, infant mortality rose from 7 deaths per 1,000 live births to 14. The county ranked last on this indicator, from 17th last year.

Child Care. Salem County parents had more child care to choose from, with the supply going from 332 slots per 1,000 children ages 0-4 in 2009 to 363 in 2010. That moved the county from 20th to 18th on this measure.

Education. While 11th graders passing state tests rose from 71 percent in the 2008-09 school year to 78 percent in 2009-10, pass rates for 4th and 8th graders both dropped. Fourth-grade pass rates declined from 73 to 68 percent, while 8th graders dropped from 77 to 75 percent during that same time period.

In addition to the county profiles, which measure progress over a 1-year period, ACNJ also released *New Jersey Kids Count: The State of Our Counties*, a pocket guide that provides a 5-year comparison of various measures of child well-being, including poverty, health, education and child protection.

“We encourage county leaders to use Kids Count data to understand the state of children in their county and to target resources to meet children’s most pressing needs,” Zalkind said. “Using data to drive decisions results in better outcomes for children and families.”

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Somerset County

2011 County Rank: 2

2011 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2010 County Rank: 4

	Year	County	NJ	2010 Rank	2011 Rank
DEMOGRAPHICS					
Child Population	2009	80,771	2,045,848	13	13
Total Population	2009	326,869	8,707,739	13	13

FAMILY ECONOMICS					
Percentage of Children in Poverty	2009	4	13	1	2
Median Income of Families with Children	2009	\$115,347	\$83,742	1	3
Percentage Unemployed	2010	6.4	8.7	3	3
Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent	2009	52	50	7	11
Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast	2009-10	11.7	28.7	N/A	19

HEALTH AND SAFETY					
Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care	2007	87.6	76.8	1	2
Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19	2007	3.29	6.59	4	5
Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)	2007	2	5	6	1
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations*	2009	30	44	4	3
Children in Out-of-Home Placement*	2010	1.89	3.47	4	5
Juvenile Arrests*	2009	21	24	9	12

*Rate per 1,000 children under 18.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION					
Licensed Center-Based Child Care Supply (slots per 1,000 0-4)	2010	935	640	3	2
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests	2009-10	84	77	4	4
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests	2009-10	87	78	3	3
Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests	2009-10	90	82	3	3



To view data sources and for more information, visit www.acnj.org

Special thanks to the Annie E. Casey Foundation for its technical and financial support.



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May 23, 2011

Contact: Nancy Parello, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031

Somerset Moves to 2nd in NJ Kids Count Rankings

Somerset County moved to 2nd place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measures 15 areas of child well-being, from 4th last year.

The county saw its biggest improvement with a drop in infant mortality from 4 deaths per 1,000 live births in a child's first year in 2006 to 2 in 2007. This moved the county from 6th to 1st place.

Somerset also improved in its availability of child care, increasing from 828 slots per 1,000 children ages 0-4 in 2009 to 935 in 2010. This improved the county's standing from 3rd to 2nd place in the Kids Count rankings.

Despite these positive improvements, Somerset did lose ground in several key areas, including a rise in child poverty from 2 percent in 2008 to 4 percent in 2009. The county dropped to 2nd place on this measure after being first last year. At the same time, median family income declined from \$128,846 to \$115,347. The county ranked 3rd, down from 1st last year.

"The Kids Count profiles paint a local picture of how children are faring in New Jersey's counties," said Cecilia Zalkind, executive director of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which publishes the Kids Count reports. "We hope that local and state leaders use these data to improve conditions for children in each county."

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“Somerset made some strides in reducing infant mortality and increasing child care availability, which is very positive,” Zalkind said. “The increase in child poverty and drop in family income is concerning.”

Some key Somerset County findings follow.

Housing. Somerset households paying too much for rent increase from 47 percent in 2008 to 52 percent in 2009. The county slipped to 11th place on this indicator, from 7th last year.

Juvenile Arrests. Somerset’s juvenile arrest rate declined from 22 youth per 1,000 in 2008 to 21 in 2009. Despite this improvement, the county dropped in the Kids Count rankings from 9th to 12th because other counties posted stronger improvements in this area.

Education. Somerset school children continued to outpace their peers in other counties in passing state tests. The county ranked 4th statewide for 4th grade pass rates and 3rd for 8th and 11th grade pass rates.

In addition to the county profiles, which measure progress over a 1-year period, ACNJ also released *New Jersey Kids Count: The State of Our Counties*, a pocket guide that provides a 5-year comparison of various measures of child well-being, including poverty, health, education and child protection.

“We encourage county leaders to use Kids Count data to understand the state of children in their county and to target resources to meet children’s most pressing needs,” Zalkind said. “Using data to drive decisions results in better outcomes for children and families.”

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Sussex County

2011 County Rank: 7

2011 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2010 County Rank: 7

	Year	County	NJ	2010 Rank	2011 Rank
DEMOGRAPHICS					
Child Population	2009	35,792	2,045,848	17	17
Total Population	2009	151,118	8,707,739	17	17

FAMILY ECONOMICS					
Percentage of Children in Poverty	2009	9	13	2	7
Median Income of Families with Children	2009	\$91,913	\$83,742	11	8
Percentage Unemployed	2010	8.6	8.7	9	10
Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent	2009	53	50	5	13
Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast	2009-10	10.5	28.7	N/A	20

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care	2007	87	76.8	2	3
Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19	2007	3.26	6.59	5	4
Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)	2007	3	5	3	3
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations*	2009	43	44	14	8
Children in Out-of-Home Placement*	2010	1.84	3.47	5	4
Juvenile Arrests*	2009	16	24	7	5

*Rate per 1,000 children under 18.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Licensed Center-Based Child Care Supply (slots per 1,000 0-4)	2010	556	640	14	14
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests	2009-10	82	77	5	5
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests	2009-10	87	78	4	4
Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests	2009-10	86	82	6	6



To view data sources and for more information, visit www.acnj.org

Special thanks to the Annie E. Casey Foundation for its technical and financial support.



Giving Every Child A Chance

NEWS



For Immediate Release

May 23, 2011

Contact: Nancy Parello, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031

Sussex Holds Steady at 7th in NJ Kids Count Rankings

Sussex held steady at 7th place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measures 15 areas of child well-being.

The county made gains in some areas and lost ground in others. Child poverty rose from 3 percent in 2008 to 9 percent in 2009, moving the county from 2nd to 7th place on this important measure of child well-being.

More Sussex households also paid too much for rent, rising from 45 percent in 2008 to 53 percent in 2009. The county's rank dropped from 5th to 13th on this measure.

Sussex posted improvements on a reduction in juvenile arrests and a rise in median family income.

"We have been encouraged by the counties' increased interest in using the information presented in Kids Count to improve child well-being," said Cecilia Zalkind, executive director of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which publishes the Kids Count reports. "Their commitment to children in these tough economic times is both critical and commendable."

"The significant rise in child poverty in Sussex County is concerning and could have broad implications for how the county responds to struggling families," Zalkind said. "The positive improvements in juvenile arrests and family income are encouraging."

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Some key Sussex County findings follow.

Family Income. Sussex's median family income rose from \$84,034 in 2008 to \$91,913 in 2009, moving the county from 11th to 8th place on this indicator.

Juvenile Arrests. Sussex's juvenile arrest rate dropped from 20 youth per 1,000 in 2008 to 16 in 2009, moving the county from 7th to 5th place on this measure in the Kids Count rankings.

Education. Pass rates on state tests for students in 4th, 8th and 11th grades remained relatively stable and the county saw no change in its ranking on these measures.

In addition to the county profiles, which measure progress over a 1-year period, ACNJ also released *New Jersey Kids Count: The State of Our Counties*, a pocket guide that provides a 5-year comparison of various measures of child well-being, including poverty, health, education and child protection.

"We encourage county leaders to use Kids Count data to understand the state of children in their county and to target resources to meet children's most pressing needs," Zalkind said. "Using data to drive decisions results in better outcomes for children and families."

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Union County

2011 County Rank: 10

2011 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2010 County Rank: 8

	Year	County	NJ	2010 Rank	2011 Rank
DEMOGRAPHICS					
Child Population	2009	129,639	2,045,848	7	6
Total Population	2009	526,426	8,707,739	7	7

FAMILY ECONOMICS					
Percentage of Children in Poverty	2009	14	13	13	13
Median Income of Families with Children	2009	\$73,397	\$83,742	12	14
Percentage Unemployed	2010	9	8.7	10	11
Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent	2009	53	50	12	13
Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast	2009-10	32.4	28.7	N/A	5

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care	2007	71	76.8	14	16
Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19	2007	6.93	6.59	12	12
Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)	2007	6	5	9	13
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations*	2009	33	44	7	5
Children in Out-of-Home Placement*	2010	3.71	3.47	11	11
Juvenile Arrests*	2009	19	24	10	8

*Rate per 1,000 children under 18.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Licensed Center-Based Child Care Supply (slots per 1,000 0-4)	2010	641	640	7	9
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests	2009-10	75	77	15	13
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests	2009-10	74	78	16	16
Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests	2009-10	77	82	14	15



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ADVOCATES
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Giving Every Child A Chance

NEWS



For Immediate Release

May 23, 2011

Contact: Nancy Parello, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031

Union Drops to 10th in NJ Kids Count Rankings

Union County dropped to 10th place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measures 15 areas of child well-being, from 8th last year.

The county lost ground with a drop in median family income from \$83,465 in 2008 to \$73,397 in 2009, moving it from 12th to 14th place on this measure. More Union County families paid too much for rent, rising from 51 percent in 2008 to 53 percent in 2009. The county declined from 12th to 13th on this measure.

Union did post some improvements, however, with an increase in 4th graders passing state tests and a drop in juvenile arrests.

“We have been encouraged by the counties’ increased interest in using the information presented in Kids Count to improve child well-being,” said Cecilia Zalkind, executive director of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which publishes the Kids Count reports. “Their commitment to children in these tough economic times is both critical and commendable.”

“More Union County families were struggling financially and that doesn’t bode well for children,” Zalkind said. “However, the decline in juvenile arrests and rise in 4th grade test scores are positive signs.”

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Some key Union County findings follow.

Child Poverty. Union's child poverty rate rose from 12 percent in 2008 to 14 percent in 2009. The county, however, held steady in the Kids Count rankings at 13th because other counties saw steeper increases in child poverty.

Juvenile Arrests. Union's juvenile arrest rate fell from 23 youth per 1,000 in 2008 to 19 in 2009, moving the county from 10th to 8th place in the Kids Count ranking.

Child Care. The county's availability of child care slipped from 677 slots per 1,000 children ages 0-4 in 2009 to 641 in 2010. The county dropped from 7th to 9th on this measure.

Education. Union County 4th graders improved their pass rates on state tests from 72 percent in 2008-09 to 75 percent in 2009-10, moving the county from 15th to 13th on this indicator.

In addition to the county profiles, which measure progress over a 1-year period, ACNJ also released *New Jersey Kids Count: The State of Our Counties*, a pocket guide that provides a 5-year comparison of various measures of child well-being, including poverty, health, education and child protection.

"We encourage county leaders to use Kids Count data to understand the state of children in their county and to target resources to meet children's most pressing needs," Zalkind said. "Using data to drive decisions results in better outcomes for children and families."

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Warren County

2011 County Rank: 9

2011 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2010 County Rank: 10

	Year	County	NJ	2010 Rank	2011 Rank
DEMOGRAPHICS					
Child Population	2009	25,652	2,045,848	19	19
Total Population	2009	109,638	8,707,739	19	19

FAMILY ECONOMICS					
Percentage of Children in Poverty	2009	10	13	12	8
Median Income of Families with Children	2009	\$81,741	\$83,742	10	11
Percentage Unemployed	2010	8.4	8.7	11	9
Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent	2009	46	50	4	4
Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast	2009-10	22.3	28.7	N/A	11

HEALTH AND SAFETY					
Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care	2007	86.7	76.8	5	5
Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19	2007	5.69	6.59	7	10
Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)	2007	9	5	8	19
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations*	2009	59	44	17	16
Children in Out-of-Home Placement*	2010	6.09	3.47	18	18
Juvenile Arrests*	2009	14	24	4	2

*Rate per 1,000 children under 18.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION					
Licensed Center-Based Child Care Supply (slots per 1,000 0-4)	2010	494	640	17	17
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests	2009-10	79	77	7	9
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests	2009-10	82	78	7	9
Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests	2009-10	83	82	7	10



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Giving Every Child A Chance

NEWS



For Immediate Release

May 23, 2011

Contact: Nancy Parello, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031

Warren Moves Up to 9th in NJ Kids Count Rankings

Warren County moved up to 9th place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measures 15 areas of child well-being, from 10th last year.

The county saw an encouraging drop in child poverty, falling from 12 percent in 2008 to 10 percent in 2009. This moved Warren from 12th to 8th in the Kids Count rankings on this important measure of child well-being.

Warren also posted improvements in a drop in its unemployment and juvenile arrest rates.

The county did lose ground in some areas, including a rise in infant mortality and a slip in passing rates for students in 4th and 8th grades.

“We have been encouraged by the counties’ increased interest in using the information presented in Kids Count to improve child well-being,” said Cecilia Zalkind, executive director of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which publishes the Kids Count reports. “Their commitment to children in these tough economic times is both critical and commendable.”

“Warren is one of the few counties to see a decline in child poverty, which is very positive,” Zalkind said. “The rise in infant mortality, however is concerning.”

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Some key Warren County findings follow.

Unemployment. Warren's unemployment rate dropped from nearly 10 percent in 2009 to a little more than 8 percent in 2010. The county moved from 11th to 9th on this measure in the Kids Count rankings.

Infant Mortality. Warren's infant mortality rate rose from 5 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2006 to 9 in 2007, which took the county from 7th to 10th place on this measure.

Juvenile Arrests. Warren's juvenile arrest rate dropped from 18 youth per 1,000 in 2008 to 14 in 2009, taking the county from 4th to 2nd place.

Education. The rate at which 4th and 8th graders passed statewide tests declined slightly, while 11th graders held steady at 83 percent. Fourth-grade pass rates dropped from 81 percent in 2008-09 to 79 percent in 2009-10, while 8th grade pass rates dropped from 84 to 82 percent. Warren ranked 9th on both of these indicators, down from 7th last year.

In addition to the county profiles, which measure progress over a 1-year period, ACNJ also released *New Jersey Kids Count: The State of Our Counties*, a pocket guide that provides a 5-year comparison of various measures of child well-being, including poverty, health, education and child protection.

"We encourage county leaders to use Kids Count data to understand the state of children in their county and to target resources to meet children's most pressing needs," Zalkind said. "Using data to drive decisions results in better outcomes for children and families."

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New Jersey Kids Count 2011 County Profiles

Data Sources and Technical Notes

Demographics

Child Population, 2009. As reported by the US Census Bureau, Population Division, Population Estimates Program.

Total Population, 2009. As reported by the US Census Bureau, Population Division, Population Estimates Program.

Family Economics

Percentage of Children in Poverty, 2009. The percentage of children under 18 living in families earning below 100 percent of the federal poverty line, as reported by the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, chart C17001.

Median Income of Families with Children, 2009. Includes families with children, as reported by the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B19125.

Percentage Unemployed, 2010. As reported by the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Data are not seasonally adjusted and are as of December for each year. 2010 data are preliminary.

Percentage of Households Spending More Than 30% Percent of Income on Rent, 2009. As reported by the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B25070.

Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced-Price School Breakfast, 2009-10. Rates calculated using eligibility data from the NJ Department of Education and participation data from the NJ Department of Agriculture. Includes children attending traditional public schools and charter schools. Participation data for only traditional public and charter schools were not available prior to 2008-09, so prior comparisons are not applicable.

Health and Safety

Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care, 2007. Percentage of live births for which the mother received prenatal care during the first trimester, as reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data.

Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19, 2007. The percentage of babies born to girls ages 10-19 as a percent of all births in each county, as reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data.

Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births), 2007. The number of babies who died before their first birthday, calculated as a rate per 1,000 live births. As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data.

Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations (rate per 1,000 under 18), 2009. Number of children who were alleged victims of child abuse/neglect. Calculated using data from the NJ Department of Children and Families and population data from the US Census Bureau, Population Division, Population Estimates Program.

Children in Out-of-Home Placement (rate per 1,000 under 18), 2010. Includes children under age 18 in all placements, including foster care, relative care, group homes, residential treatment and institutions. Calculated using data from the NJ Department of Children and Families and population data from the US Census Bureau, Population Division, Population Estimates Program.

Juvenile Arrests (rate per 1,000 under 18), 2009. Juveniles under 18 arrested. Calculated using data from the NJ Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of State Police, Uniform Crime Reports and population data from the US Census Bureau, Population Division, Population Estimates Program.

Early Care and Education

Licensed Center-Based Child Care Supply (slots per 1,000 0-4), 2010. The number of state-licensed child care center slots, calculated at a rate of slots per 1,000 children ages 0-4. Data on the number of licensed child care slots are from the NJ Department of Children and Families and population data are from the US Census Bureau, Population Division, Population Estimates Program.

Percentage of Public Kindergarten Children Enrolled in Full-Day Program, 2009-10. The percentage of public kindergarten children enrolled in a full-day kindergarten program. Includes children attending traditional public schools as well as charter schools. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, October enrollment counts of each year.

Percentage of Children Passing 4th Grade Tests 2009-2010. As reported by the NJ Department of Education. Includes children enrolled in traditional public schools as well as charter schools.

Percentage of Children Passing 8th Grade Tests 2009-2010. As reported by the NJ Department of Education. Includes children enrolled in traditional public schools as well as charter schools.

Percentage of Children Passing 11th Grade Tests 2009-2010. As reported by the NJ Department of Education. Includes children enrolled in traditional public schools as well as charter schools.