New Jersey Kids Count 2014
Hudson County Profile

ADVOCATES
for CHILDREN OF NEW JERSEY

The county profiles present the most recent data for each indicator. For historical data, please see the New Jersey Kids Count County Pocket Guides, which can be found in the library at www.acnj.org.

County Rankings at-a-Glance

County	2013 RANK	2014 RANK
Atlantic	19	20
Bergen	4	4
Burlington	8	9
Camden	16	18
Cape May	18	15
Cumberland	20	21
Essex	15	17
Gloucester	10	11
Hudson	14	14
Hunterdon	1	1
Mercer	12	13
Middlesex	5	5
Monmouth	6	7
Morris	2	2
Ocean	13	10
Passaic	17	16
Salem	21	19
Somerset	3	3
Sussex	7	8
Union	9	12
Warren	11	6

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Hudson County

2014 County Rank: 14

2014 Kids Count County Profiles

2013 County Rank: 14

	Year	County	NJ	2013 Rank	2014 Rank
Demographics					
Child Population	2012	133,176	2,026,384	6	**6**
Total Population	2012	652,302	8,864,590	4	**4**
Family Economics					
Percentage of Children in Poverty	2012	26	15	18	**21**
Median Income of Families with Children	2012	$52,209	$85,185	20	**20**
Percentage Unemployed	2013	7.4	8.2	13	**15**
Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent	2012	45	51	2	**4**
Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast	2012-13	32	36	17	**10**
Health and Safety					
Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care	2010	66	78	18	**21**
Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19	2010	6	5	13	**12**
Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)	2010	3	5	8	**6**
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations*	2012	49	46	14	**9**
Children in Out-of-Home Placement*	2012	4	4	14	**12**
Juvenile Arrests*	2012	12	15	6	**10**

*Rate per 1,000 children under 18.

	Year	County	NJ	2013 Rank	2014 Rank
Early Care and Education					
% of Family Income Spent on Licensed Child Care for a Family with One Infant and One Preschooler	2012	30	24	N/A	**16**
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests	2012-13	68	76	18	**18**
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests	2012-13	68	77	19	**19**
Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests	2012-13	79	86	14	**20**

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

Giving Every Child A Chance

NEWS

April 24, 2014

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Hudson County Holds Steady at 14th in Kids Count Rankings

Hudson County held steady at 14th place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measure progress in improving the lives of children in 13 critical areas.

Hudson saw some progress in two areas -- an increase in low-income students receiving school breakfast and a drop in infant mortality. Of concern, the county saw an increase in child poverty. At 26 percent, the county had the highest child poverty rate in the state.

"We see some concerning trends across the state and in Hudson County, especially rising child poverty and a shrinking pool of child care providers for working parents," said Cecilia Zalkind, executive director of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which publishes the Kids Count reports. "As New Jersey legislators discuss the governor's proposed budget, the Kids Count data should be used to make smart choices for kids that address these ongoing issues."

Some key Hudson County findings follow.

Family economics. The percent of children living in families earning too little to meet their needs rose from 24 to 26 percent from 2011 to 2012. This pushed the county to last statewide on this critical indicator, down from 18th last year.

While the county's median household income rose slightly – about $1,400 – at roughly $52,000 a year, it remains far lower than the state average of about $85,000. Hudson ranked 20th on this measure in the Kids Count rankings.

Prenatal care/infant mortality. Just 66 percent of women received early prenatal care in Hudson County, making it last in the state for this measure of child well-being, down from 18th last year. At the same time, the county's infant mortality rate improved from four deaths per 1,000 live births to three. The county ranked 6th this year, up from 8th last year.

School breakfast. Hudson showed its strongest improvement in providing low-income children with breakfast at school, feeding 32 percent of eligible students in 2012-13, compared to 21

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percent the year before. That moved Hudson from 17th to 10th on this important measure of child well-being.

In addition to releasing the county rankings, Advocates for Children of New Jersey also released:

- ▪ ***New Jersey Kids Count 2014: The State of Our Children***, which provides state-level data on key measures of child well-being.
- ▪ ***New Jersey Kids Count 2014: 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.

To help counties use the data to address the needs of children, Advocates for Children is hosting Kids Count Regional Forums across the state, bringing together county, city and state leaders with the people in the community who work with children and families.

"These forums are designed to foster discussions about the data that result in concrete action at the state, county and local levels," Zalkind said. "When we use data to drive critical decisions about responding to the needs of children, everyone benefits -- children, families, our communities and our state."

To view the county profiles, the pocket guide and the state Kids Count report and for a schedule of Kids Count forums, 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.

How ACNJ Calculated the Rankings for 2014

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 rate would rank #21.

Thirteen 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 given an overall rank based on the rankings of its individual 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 overall county rankings.

This year, ACNJ included a new child care indicator, which replaced its previous indicator that looked at child care supply. The new indicator looks at the percentage of a family's income that is spent on licensed child care for a family who has one infant and one preschooler. Comparisons to a county's ranking last year on this indicator, therefore, are not applicable.

New Jersey Kids Count 2014 County Profiles
Data Sources and Technical Notes

Demographics

Child Population, 2012. As reported by the US Census Bureau, Population Division, Population Estimates Program.

Total Population, 2012. As reported by the US Census Bureau, Population Division, Population Estimates Program.

Family Economics

Percentage of Children in Poverty, 2012. 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 b17001.

Median Income of Families with Children, 2012. Includes families with children, as reported by the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart b19125.

Percentage Unemployed, 2013. 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. 2011 data are preliminary.

Percentage of Households Spending More Than 30% Percent of Income on Rent, 2012. As reported by the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart b25070.

Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced-Price School Breakfast, 2012-13. Rates calculated using eligibility data from the NJ Department of Education as of October 2012 and participation data from the NJ Department of Agriculture, as of April 2013. Includes children attending traditional public schools and charter schools.

Health and Safety

Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care, 2010. 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, 2010. The percentage of babies born to girls ages 10-19 as a percentage 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), 2010. 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. 2010 data are preliminary.

Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations (rate per 1,000 under 18), 2012. 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), 2012. 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), 2012. 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

Percentage of Family Income Spent on Licensed Child Care for a Family with One Infant and One Preschooler 2012. Median income data are as reported by the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B19125. Cost data are as reported by the NJ Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NJACCRRA), *The State of Child Care in New Jersey: A Profile of Key Child Care Indicators 2012.*

Percentage of Children Passing 4th Grade Tests 2012-13. 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 2012-13. 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 2012-13. As reported by the NJ Department of Education. Includes children enrolled in traditional public schools as well as charter schools.