New Jersey Kids Count 2014
Hunterdon 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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Hunterdon County

2014 Kids Count County Profiles

2013 County Rank: 1

	Year	County	NJ	2013 Rank	2014 Rank
Demographics					
Child Population	2012	28,081	2,026,384	18	**18**
Total Population	2012	127,050	8,864,590	18	**18**
Family Economics					
Percentage of Children in Poverty	2012	5	15	3	**2**
Median Income of Families with Children	2012	$132,066	$85,185	3	**1**
Percentage Unemployed	2013	4.7	8.2	1	**1**
Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent	2012	40	51	3	**1**
Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast	2012-13	14	36	20	**21**
Health and Safety					
Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care	2010	91	78	4	**1**
Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19	2010	2	5	1	**3**
Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)	2010	2	5	1	**4**
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations*	2012	30	46	3	**3**
Children in Out-of-Home Placement*	2012	1	4	5	**1**
Juvenile Arrests*	2012	11	15	1	**7**

*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	19	24	N/A	**2**
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests	2012-13	88	76	1	**1**
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests	2012-13	91	77	1	**1**
Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests	2012-13	94	86	1	**1**

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

Giving Every Child A Chance

ADVOCATES
for **CHILDREN OF NEW JERSEY**

April 24, 2014

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Hunterdon Holds on to 1st Place in Kids Count Rankings

Hunterdon County held on to its 1st place position in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measure progress in improving the lives of children in 13 critical areas.

Hunterdon continues to have some of the best outcomes for New Jersey children, with low child poverty, the highest median income and the best student performance in the state.

The county did see a slight increase in its juvenile arrest rate and continues to lag on providing breakfast to low-income students, coming in last in the state for its low participation in the federal School Breakfast Program.

"Hunterdon continues to be one of the best places in the state to raise children," said Cecilia Zalkind, executive director of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which publishes the Kids Count reports. "This is largely a result of the high income compared to other counties. However, county leaders should recognize that there are indeed families in Hunterdon who struggle to make ends meet."

Zalkind added that 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 ongoing issues."

Some key Hunterdon County findings follow.

Family economics. The percent of children living in families earning too little to meet their needs remained steady at 5 percent from 2011 to 2012. Still, Hunterdon has seen a sharp increase in the number of children living in poor families, rising 44 percent from 2008 to 2012. The county's median income climbed nearly $20,000 to $132,066 – the highest in the state.

Housing costs. In 2012, 40 percent of Hunterdon households spent more than the recommended 30 percent of income on housing, down from 45 percent last year. That advanced the county to first in the state on this measure.

Giving Every Child A Chance

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School breakfast. While other counties are posting strong increases in the percent of low-income children receiving breakfast at school, Hunterdon schools fed just 14 percent of children living in low-income families – the lowest in the state. As a growing number of Hunterdon families struggle to make ends meet, this important nutritional support can help address childhood hunger.

Test scores. Hunterdon ranked 1st across the board for student performance on state tests in 4th, 8th and 11th grade, with pass rates of 88, 91 and 94 percent, respectively.

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.