New Jersey Kids Count 2015
Hudson County Profile

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	2014 RANK	2015 RANK
Atlantic	20	20
Bergen	4	5
Burlington	9	9
Camden	18	17
Cape May	15	14
Cumberland	21	21
Essex	17	16
Gloucester	11	10
Hudson	14	15
Hunterdon	1	2
Mercer	13	13
Middlesex	5	4
Monmouth	7	7
Morris	2	1
Ocean	10	11
Passaic	16	18
Salem	19	19
Somerset	3	3
Sussex	8	6
Union	12	12
Warren	6	8

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Hudson County

2015 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2014 County Rank: 14

	Year	County	NJ	2014 Rank	2015 Rank
DEMOGRAPHICS					
Child Population	2013	134,229	2,022,117	6	**6**
Total Population	2013	660,282	8,899,339	4	**4**
FAMILY ECONOMICS					
Percentage of Children in Poverty	2013	32	17	21	**20**
Median Income of Families with Children	2013	$50,452	$85,248	20	**19**
Percentage Unemployed	2014	6.6	5.7	15	**14**
Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent	2013	48	51	4	**8**
Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast	2014-15*	52	41	10	**3**

*Please note that the 2014-15 percentage data are preliminary and based upon the most recent data, which include school meal eligibility data as of 2013-14 school year and receiving data as of October 2014.

HEALTH AND SAFETY					
Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care	2011	67	79	21	**21**
Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19	2011	5	5	12	**11**
Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)	2011	4	5	6	**8**
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations*	2013	52	47	9	**13**
Children in Out-of-Home Placement*	2013	4	4	12	**11**
Juvenile Arrests*	2012	12	15	10	**10**

*Rate per 1,000 children under 18.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION					
% of Family Income Spent on Licensed Child Care for a Family with One Infant and One Preschooler	2013	33	25	16	**19**
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests	2013-14	67	74	18	**17**
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests	2013-14	67	77	19	**18**
Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests	2013-14	81	86	20	**17**

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.

ADVOCATES for CHILDREN OF NEW JERSEY

Giving Every Child A Chance

NEWS

Hudson County Slips to 15th in Kids Count Rankings

Hudson County slipped to 15th place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measure progress in improving the lives of children in 13 critical areas. Last year, the county ranked 14th.

Hudson saw some progress in several areas -- an increase in low-income students receiving school breakfast, a lower unemployment rate and a jump in student performance on state tests among 11th graders. Of concern, along with the rise of children in poverty, the county experienced a drop in median family income and an increase in the percent of households spending too much of their income on rent.

"Statewide, we are seeing some positive trends, including fewer uninsured children and more children starting their school day with a healthy breakfast," said Cecilia Zalkind, executive director of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which publishes the Kids Count reports. "In the face of rising poverty, these supports are essential to ensure children have the nutrition and healthcare they need to succeed in school."

"This is the fifth straight year that child poverty has increased in New Jersey," Zalkind added. "While we have taken some steps to address this, we continue to put children on the budgetary backburner. As New Jersey legislators discuss the governor's proposed budget, the top priority should be investments in children and families, including tax credits for the working poor, preschool and child care assistance."

This year's **New Jersey State Kids Count** report includes a special section on race, which found that black, Hispanic and mixed race children, on average, struggle more than children of other races. These children are more likely to live in poverty, experience negative health outcomes, be involved in the state child protection and juvenile justice systems and struggle in school. These data, however, are not available on a county-level.

Following are some key trends in Hudson County.

Family economics. The percent of children living in families earning too little to meet their needs rose from 26 to 32 percent from 2012 to 2013.

During that same period, 48 percent of Hudson households were spending more than the recommended 30 percent of their income on rent – up from 45 percent the previous year, but still less than the statewide average of 51 percent. As a result, the county dropped to 8th from 4th place in the Kids Count rankings on this measure.

The county's unemployment rate improved from 7.4 percent in 2013 to 6.6 percent in 2014, while median annual income dropped more than $2,000 to roughly $50,400 – far below the statewide median of about $85,000.

Prenatal care/infant mortality. Despite a 1 percent increase in the number of women receiving early prenatal care, Hudson County still ranks last in the state for this measure of child well-being at 67 percent.

School breakfast. Hudson continues to show strong improvement in providing low-income children with breakfast at school, feeding 52 percent of eligible students in 2013-14, compared to 32 percent the year before. That moved Hudson from 10th to 3rd on this important measure of child well-being.

Test scores. The passing rates on state tests in 4th and 8th grades both dipped slightly from 68 to 67 percent between the 2012-13 and 2013-14 school years, but because of more significant downward trends in other counties, Hudson inched up on the Kids Count rankings on these measures. Hudson saw improvement in the 11th grade pass rate, rising 2 percent to 81 percent in 2013-14.

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

- ▪ ***New Jersey Kids Count 2015: The State of Our Children***, which provides state-level data on key measures of child well-being.
- ▪ ***New Jersey Kids Count 2015: 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 will host two Kids Count Regional Forums – one in South Jersey and one in Central Jersey -- 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 2015

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.

New Jersey Kids Count 2015 County Profiles
Data Sources and Technical Notes

<u>Demographics</u>

Child Population, 2013. As reported by the US Census Bureau, Population Division, Population Estimates Program.

Total Population, 2013. As reported by the US Census Bureau, Population Division, Population Estimates Program.

<u>Family Economics</u>

Percentage of Children in Poverty, 2013. 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, 2013. Includes families with children, as reported by the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart b19125.

Percentage Unemployed, 2014. 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, 2013. As reported by the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart b25070.

Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced-Price School Breakfast, 2014-15. 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. Please note that the 2014-15 percent of eligible students receiving free- and reduced-price meals are based upon the most recent eligibility data as of October 2013, while the number of students receiving free- and reduced-price meals is as of October 2014. Some variation in eligibility may occur.

<u>Health and Safety</u>

Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care, 2011. 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, 2011. 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), 2011. 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), 2013. 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), 2013. 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. Please note updated 2013 data were not available at the time of release of this report.

Early Care and Education

% of Family Income Spent on Licensed Child Care for a Family with One Infant and One Preschooler 2013. 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 2013.*

Percentage of Children Passing 4th Grade Tests 2013-14. 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 2013-14. 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 2013-14. As reported by the NJ Department of Education. Includes children enrolled in traditional public schools as well as charter schools.