

New Jersey Kids Count 2015 County Profiles



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 | 12 |

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Giving Every Child A Chance

Atlantic County

2015 County Rank: 20

2015 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2014 County Rank: 20

| | Year | County | NJ | 2014 Rank | 2015 Rank |
|---------------------|------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| DEMOGRAPHICS | | | | | |
| Child Population | 2013 | 61,824 | 2,022,117 | 15 | 15 |
| Total Population | 2013 | 275,862 | 8,899,339 | 15 | 15 |

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----|----|
| FAMILY ECONOMICS | | | | | |
| Percentage of Children in Poverty | 2013 | 27 | 17 | 17 | 18 |
| Median Income of Families with Children | 2013 | \$48,103 | \$85,248 | 19 | 21 |
| Percentage Unemployed | 2014 | 11.3 | 5.7 | 19 | 20 |
| Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent | 2013 | 56 | 51 | 18 | 17 |
| Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast | 2014-15* | 44 | 41 | 4 | 6 |

*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 | 74 | 79 | 17 | 16 |
| Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19 | 2011 | 9 | 5 | 19 | 19 |
| Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births) | 2011 | 11 | 5 | 19 | 20 |
| Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations* | 2013 | 66 | 47 | 17 | 17 |
| Children in Out-of-Home Placement* | 2013 | 7 | 4 | 20 | 20 |
| Juvenile Arrests* | 2012 | 20 | 15 | 16 | 16 |

*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 | 38 | 25 | 19 | 21 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 64 | 74 | 19 | 20 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 72 | 77 | 15 | 15 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 82 | 86 | 15 | 15 |



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



April 20, 2015

Contact: Nancy Parello, communications director, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031 (cell), nparello@acnj.org

Atlantic County Remains 20th in Kids Count Rankings

Atlantic County remained at 20th place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measure progress in improving the lives of children in 13 critical areas.

Atlantic County made the most progress in the percent of women receiving prenatal care and a lower rate of families spending too much of their income on housing costs.

The county lost ground, however, in other areas, especially in areas that measure the financial health of families. Most notably, Atlantic County saw an increase in child poverty and unemployment, and a decline in median household income

“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.

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Following are some key trends in Atlantic County.

Family Economics. The percent of Atlantic County children growing up in poverty increased from 22 to 27 percent from 2012 to 2013, dropping in the Kids Count rankings from 17th to 18th. The county ranks last in the average median income for families with children, dropping from nearly \$54,000 in 2012 to \$48,000 in 2013. At the same time, the unemployment rate inched up about 1 percent from a rate of 10.4 the previous year. The county dropped from 19th to 20th on this indicator as a result.

Atlantic County saw a slight decrease in families spending more than 30 percent of their income on rent, from 59 to 56 percent from 2012 to 2013. This is still higher than the statewide average of 51 percent.

Child Health. There was an increase from 71 to 74 percent of women receiving early prenatal care in 2011, moving Atlantic up to 16th place in the rankings on this indicator. However, Atlantic County also saw a rise in its infant mortality rate from 9 deaths per 1,000 live births to 11 deaths in 2011, the most recent year that data are available.

Child Care. The federal government recommends that parents spend no more than 10 percent of their income on child care costs. In Atlantic County, an average family with one infant and one preschooler in licensed child care spent 38 percent of income on child care costs in 2013 – nearly four times more than the recommended amount. The county ranked at the bottom on this indicator.

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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2015 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2014 County Rank: 4

| | Year | County | NJ | 2014 Rank | 2015 Rank |
|---------------------|------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| DEMOGRAPHICS | | | | | |
| Child Population | 2013 | 202,419 | 2,022,117 | 1 | 1 |
| Total Population | 2013 | 925,328 | 8,899,339 | 1 | 1 |

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|-----------|----------|----|----|
| FAMILY ECONOMICS | | | | | |
| Percentage of Children in Poverty | 2013 | 11 | 17 | 9 | 8 |
| Median Income of Families with Children | 2013 | \$111,122 | \$85,248 | 4 | 4 |
| Percentage Unemployed | 2014 | 4.8 | 5.7 | 5 | 5 |
| Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent | 2013 | 50 | 51 | 7 | 10 |
| Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast | 2014-15* | 20 | 41 | 16 | 18 |

*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 | 81 | 79 | 9 | 10 |
| Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19 | 2011 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 2 |
| Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births) | 2011 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 11 |
| Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations* | 2013 | 25 | 47 | 1 | 1 |
| Children in Out-of-Home Placement* | 2013 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Juvenile Arrests * | 2012 | 12 | 15 | 9 | 9 |

*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 | 22 | 25 | 8 | 7 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 83 | 74 | 2 | 3 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 84 | 77 | 4 | 4 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 91 | 86 | 5 | 4 |



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



April 20, 2015

Contact: Nancy Parello, communications director, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031 (cell), nparello@acnj.org

Bergen County Slips to 5th in Kids Count Rankings

Bergen County slipped to 5th place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measure progress in improving the lives of children in 13 critical areas.

Bergen County made the most progress in the comparatively low amount of family income spent on child care costs. The county continues to have a low rate of births to teens and child abuse or neglect investigations.

The county lost ground in several key areas, including renters spending too much of their income on housing, infant mortality and students receiving school breakfast.

“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.

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Following are some key trends in Bergen County.

Family Economics. The median income of Bergen households rose from about \$107,000 to \$111,000 from 2012 to 2013, giving it the 4th highest income statewide. Still, during that same time, half of Bergen County renters spent more than the recommended 30 percent of income on housing costs, up from 47 percent the year prior. The county slipped from 7th to 10th in the rankings on this indicator. Compared to last year, the county also saw a drop in the unemployment rate from 5.5 to 4.8 percent in 2014.

Infant mortality. Bergen's infant mortality rate doubled from 2 deaths per every 1,000 live births in 2010 to 4 in 2011. While its rate is still lower than the statewide average of 5, the county ranked 11th, dropping from 3rd on this measure.

School breakfast. Only 20 percent of Bergen's low-income children received school breakfast in the 2014-15 school year, down from 25 percent the year before. Bergen was one of only two counties to lose ground in this area, with Essex being the other. As a result, the county dropped from 16th to 18th in the state on this measure.

Child care costs. The average Bergen family spent 22 percent of their income on center-based child care for an infant and toddler, compared to a statewide average of 25 percent, ranking 7th on this indicator. National standards say families should spend no more than 10 percent of income on child care.

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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Burlington County

2015 County Rank: 9

2015 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2014 County Rank: 9

| | Year | County | NJ | 2014 Rank | 2015 Rank |
|---------------------|------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| DEMOGRAPHICS | | | | | |
| Child Population | 2013 | 99,733 | 2,022,117 | 11 | 11 |
| Total Population | 2013 | 450,838 | 8,899,339 | 11 | 11 |

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----|----|
| FAMILY ECONOMICS | | | | | |
| Percentage of Children in Poverty | 2013 | 9 | 17 | 4 | 5 |
| Median Income of Families with Children | 2013 | \$90,563 | \$85,248 | 9 | 9 |
| Percentage Unemployed | 2014 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 10 | 10 |
| Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent | 2013 | 48 | 51 | 6 | 5 |
| Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast | 2014-15* | 26 | 41 | 17 | 17 |

*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 | 86 | 79 | 8 | 7 |
| Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19 | 2011 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 10 |
| Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births) | 2011 | 4 | 5 | 17 | 7 |
| Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations* | 2013 | 49 | 47 | 8 | 11 |
| Children in Out-of-Home Placement* | 2013 | 5 | 4 | 13 | 13 |
| Juvenile Arrests* | 2012 | 16 | 15 | 14 | 14 |

*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 | 24 | 25 | 3 | 11 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 77 | 74 | 8 | 9 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 79 | 77 | 10 | 9 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 87 | 86 | 11 | 11 |



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



April 20, 2015

Contact: Nancy Parello, communications director, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031 (cell), nparello@acnj.org

Burlington County Remains 9th in Kids Count Rankings

Burlington County remained at 9th place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measure progress in improving the lives of children in 13 critical areas.

Burlington saw progress in key areas, including drops in unemployment and infant mortality, as well as a jump in the percent of women receiving early prenatal care. Student performance on state tests among 8th and 11th graders also improved slightly.

The county lost ground, however, in other areas, especially in the percentage of family income spent on licensed child care, causing Burlington to drop from 3rd place last year to 11th this year.

“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

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systems and struggle in school. These data, however, are not available on a county-level.

Following are some key trends in Burlington County.

Family Economics. The percent of children living in families earning too little to meet their needs rose from 8 to 9 percent from 2012 to 2013. This pushed the county to 5th on this critical indicator, down from 4th last year.

The county's unemployment rate improved from 6.5 percent in 2013 to 5.7 percent in 2014, while median annual income dropped more than \$2,600 to about \$90,500 – still exceeding the statewide median of \$85,000.

Prenatal care/infant mortality. Eighty-six percent of Burlington County women received early prenatal care in 2011, up from 82 percent the year before. At the same time, the county's infant mortality rate improved from 8 deaths per 1,000 live births to 4. The county ranked 7th this year, up from 17th last year.

Child care costs. Burlington's working parents spent more of their income on licensed child care in 2013 than in 2012, rising from 20 to 24 percent, moving the county to 11th from 3rd in the Kids Count rankings on this indicator. National standards say families should spend no more than 10 percent of income on child care.

Test scores. The passing rates on state tests in 4th, 8th and 11th grades were mixed. In the 2013-14 school year, 77 percent of Cumberland students passed 4th grade tests – down from 80 percent the year before. Seventy-nine percent passed 8th grade tests – up from 78 percent and 87 passed 11th grade tests – up from 86 percent. Still, all grades surpassed the statewide passage rates of 74, 77 and 86 percent, respectively.

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.”

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2015 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2014 County Rank: 18

| | Year | County | NJ | 2014 Rank | 2015 Rank |
|---------------------|------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| DEMOGRAPHICS | | | | | |
| Child Population | 2013 | 120,761 | 2,022,117 | 9 | 9 |
| Total Population | 2013 | 512,854 | 8,899,339 | 8 | 8 |

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----|----|
| FAMILY ECONOMICS | | | | | |
| Percentage of Children in Poverty | 2013 | 24 | 17 | 16 | 15 |
| Median Income of Families with Children | 2013 | \$69,783 | \$85,248 | 14 | 15 |
| Percentage Unemployed | 2014 | 6.6 | 5.7 | 15 | 14 |
| Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent | 2013 | 56 | 51 | 17 | 18 |
| Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast | 2014-15* | 50 | 41 | 6 | 5 |

*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 | 79 | 79 | 16 | 12 |
| Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19 | 2011 | 9 | 5 | 18 | 18 |
| Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births) | 2011 | 10 | 5 | 16 | 19 |
| Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations* | 2013 | 70 | 47 | 18 | 18 |
| Children in Out-of-Home Placement* | 2013 | 6 | 4 | 15 | 15 |
| Juvenile Arrests* | 2012 | 32 | 15 | 20 | 20 |

*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 | 27 | 25 | 15 | 13 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 65 | 74 | 17 | 18 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 70 | 77 | 17 | 17 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 82 | 86 | 11 | 16 |



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Giving Every Child A Chance

NEWS



April 20, 2015

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Camden County Rises to 17th in Kids Count Rankings

Camden County rose to 17th 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 18th.

Camden County made the most progress in the percent of women receiving early prenatal care, improving in the rankings on this indicator from 16th last year to 12th. The county also made gains in school breakfast participation and unemployment.

The county lost ground, however, in other areas. Camden County moved from 16th to 15th for its child poverty rate and fell short in state test performance among 4th and 11th graders.

“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

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systems and struggle in school. These data, however, are not available on a county-level.

Following are some key trends in Camden County.

Family economics. A higher percent of Camden County children lived in families earning too little to meet their needs, rising from 20 percent in 2012 to 24 percent in 2013. The country dropped from 16th to 15th on this critical measure of child well-being.

School breakfast. Half of all low-income Camden County children received school breakfast in the 2013-14 school year. The county improved from 6th to 5th on this measure, rising from 37 percent in 2012-13 and surpassing the statewide student participation rate of 41 percent.

Child health. Camden County saw an increase from 77 to 79 percent of women receiving early prenatal care, but also experienced a rise in its infant mortality rate from 7 deaths per 1,000 live births to 10 deaths in 2011, double the statewide average.

Test scores. Camden's student performance on state tests during the 2012 to 2013 school year in 4th and 11th grades decreased, with pass rates of 65 and 82 percent respectively. The 8th grade pass rate remained unchanged from 2012-13 to 2013-14 at 70 percent.

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

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Cape May County

2015 County Rank: 14

2015 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2014 County Rank: 15

| | Year | County | NJ | 2014 Rank | 2015 Rank |
|---------------------|------|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| DEMOGRAPHICS | | | | | |
| Child Population | 2013 | 17,274 | 2,022,117 | 20 | 20 |
| Total Population | 2013 | 95,897 | 8,899,339 | 20 | 20 |

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----|----|
| FAMILY ECONOMICS | | | | | |
| Percentage of Children in Poverty | 2013 | 10 | 17 | 10 | 7 |
| Median Income of Families with Children | 2013 | \$81,219 | \$85,248 | 16 | 12 |
| Percentage Unemployed | 2014 | 12.3 | 5.7 | 21 | 21 |
| Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent | 2013 | 51 | 51 | 9 | 12 |
| Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast | 2014-15* | 50 | 41 | 3 | 4 |

*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 | 81 | 79 | 15 | 11 |
| Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19 | 2011 | 7 | 5 | 16 | 15 |
| Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births) | 2011 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 10 |
| Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations* | 2013 | 86 | 47 | 19 | 19 |
| Children in Out-of-Home Placement* | 2013 | 9 | 4 | 21 | 21 |
| Juvenile Arrests* | 2012 | 36 | 15 | 21 | 21 |

*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 | 23 | 25 | 13 | 8 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 74 | 74 | 12 | 12 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 75 | 77 | 11 | 12 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 88 | 86 | 10 | 9 |



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



April 20, 2015

Contact: Nancy Parello, communications director, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031 (cell), nparello@acnj.org

Cape May County Rises to 14th in Kids Count Rankings

Cape May County rose to 14th 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 15th.

Cape May County saw significant progress in three key areas – a jump in median family income, more women receiving early prenatal care and households spending less of their budget on licensed child care. The county received its best ranking – 4th – for its percentage of low-income children receiving school breakfast.

Cape May County still has the highest rates of unemployment, children in an out-of-home placement and juvenile arrests in New Jersey.

“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

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systems and struggle in school. These data, however, are not available on a county-level.

Following are some key trends in Cape May County.

Family economics. The percent of children in Cape May County living in poverty remained at 10, but increases in other counties helped Cape May advance from 10th to 7th this year in the Kids Count rankings. During that same time, the county also saw a sharp increase in the median family income from about \$61,000 to \$81,000-- much closer to the statewide median income of roughly \$85,000.

Not all news on the economic front is positive, however. Cape May still held the highest unemployment rate in the state at 12.3 percent in 2014, although this did decrease slightly from 13 percent the year prior.

Child safety. For the third consecutive year, Cape May had the highest rates of children placed in foster care in 2013. Its out-of-home placement rate remained at 9 -- more than double the statewide average of 4. Cape May also had the highest juvenile arrest rate at 36 arrests per 1,000 children under 18 – more than twice the statewide rate of 15.

Child health. Cape May County posted positive improvements in areas of child health. The county saw an increase from 77 to 81 percent of women receiving early prenatal care and a drop in the percentage of births to teens from 9 to 7 percent in 2011, the most recent year that data are available.

School breakfast. Cape May County continued to serve half of eligible children school breakfast in 2013-14. With no change from the previous year, other counties posted stronger increases and as a result, the county dropped from 3rd to 4th in the state on this indicator.

Child care costs. Cape May's working parents spent 23 percent of their income on child care for an infant and toddler, compared to a statewide average of 25 percent, ranking 8th on this indicator. National standards say families should spend no more than 10 percent of income on child care.

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.”

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###

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Cumberland County

2015 County Rank: 21

2015 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2014 County Rank: 21

| | Year | County | NJ | 2014 Rank | 2015 Rank |
|---------------------|------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| DEMOGRAPHICS | | | | | |
| Child Population | 2013 | 37,493 | 2,022,117 | 16 | 16 |
| Total Population | 2013 | 157,332 | 8,899,339 | 16 | 16 |

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----|----|
| FAMILY ECONOMICS | | | | | |
| Percentage of Children in Poverty | 2013 | 30 | 17 | 19 | 19 |
| Median Income of Families with Children | 2013 | \$50,006 | \$85,248 | 21 | 20 |
| Percentage Unemployed | 2014 | 9.2 | 5.7 | 20 | 19 |
| Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent | 2013 | 64 | 51 | 21 | 21 |
| Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast | 2014-15* | 53 | 41 | 1 | 1 |

*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 | 71 | 79 | 18 | 18 |
| Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19 | 2011 | 12 | 5 | 21 | 21 |
| Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births) | 2011 | 12 | 5 | 20 | 21 |
| Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations* | 2013 | 105 | 47 | 21 | 21 |
| Children in Out-of-Home Placement* | 2013 | 7 | 4 | 17 | 19 |
| Juvenile Arrests* | 2012 | 25 | 15 | 18 | 18 |

*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 | 18 | 18 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 58 | 74 | 21 | 21 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 60 | 77 | 21 | 21 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 74 | 86 | 21 | 21 |



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Giving Every Child A Chance

NEWS



April 20, 2015

Contact: Nancy Parello, communications director, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031 (cell), nparello@acnj.org

Cumberland County Remains in Last Place in Kids Count Rankings

Cumberland County remained in last place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measure progress in improving the lives of children in 13 critical areas.

The best news for Cumberland County was it held on to the top spot for serving the highest percentage of low-income children school breakfast. In the 2013-14 school year, 53 percent of all eligible Cumberland students received this nutritious start to their school day, down from 56 percent the year prior, but still first in the state on this indicator. Cumberland also saw a decline in unemployment, advancing in the Kids Count rankings from 20th to 19th.

The county ranked last in the state, however, in key areas including households spending too much of their income on rent, infant mortality, child abuse or neglect investigations and births to teens. The county also had the lowest test scores in 4th, 8th and 11th grades.

“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,

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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.

Some key Cumberland County findings follow.

Family economics. The percent of Cumberland County children living in families earning too little to meet their needs rose from 24 to 30 percent from 2012 to 2013. The county's median household income also declined slightly from about \$51,000 to \$50,000 – far lower than the state average of roughly \$85,000. The county ranked 20th on this measure in the Kids Count rankings. Cumberland County families had the highest percent of families spending too much of their income on rent, increasing from 60 percent to 64 percent in 2013, ranking last among the state.

While still higher than the state average of 5.7 percent, Cumberland saw a drop in the unemployment rate from 10.5 to 9.2 percent between 2013 and 2014.

School breakfast. Cumberland County served free- or reduced-price school breakfasts to 53 percent of its eligible children in 2013-14, down from 56 percent the previous year, but still higher than the state average of 41 percent.

Child health. Cumberland saw a spike in its infant mortality rate from 9 deaths per 1,000 live births to 12 deaths in 2011, the most recent year that data are available. Birth to teens decreased from 13 percent of all births in 2010 to 12 percent in 2011. The statewide percentage is 5.

Child safety. In 2013, Cumberland once again had the highest rate of child abuse or neglect investigations at 105 per 1,000 children, up from 96 in 2012 -- more than double the statewide average of 47.

Test scores. For the third consecutive year, Cumberland students continued to have the lowest passing rates on state tests in 4th, 8th and 11th grades. In the 2013-14 school year, 58 percent of students passed 4th grade tests, 60 percent passed 8th grade tests and 74 passed 11th grade tests in the county. This is compared to statewide passage rates of 74, 77 and 86 percent, respectively.

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.”

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2015 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2014 County Rank: 17

| | Year | County | NJ | 2014 Rank | 2015 Rank |
|---------------------|------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| DEMOGRAPHICS | | | | | |
| Child Population | 2013 | 191,819 | 2,022,117 | 2 | 2 |
| Total Population | 2013 | 789,565 | 8,899,339 | 3 | 3 |

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----|----|
| FAMILY ECONOMICS | | | | | |
| Percentage of Children in Poverty | 2013 | 25 | 17 | 20 | 16 |
| Median Income of Families with Children | 2013 | \$60,563 | \$85,248 | 17 | 16 |
| Percentage Unemployed | 2014 | 7 | 5.7 | 17 | 17 |
| Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent | 2013 | 53 | 51 | 12 | 14 |
| Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast | 2014-15* | 52 | 41 | 2 | 2 |

*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 | 68 | 79 | 19 | 20 |
| Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19 | 2011 | 7 | 5 | 15 | 16 |
| Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births) | 2011 | 6 | 5 | 14 | 17 |
| Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations* | 2013 | 55 | 47 | 14 | 14 |
| Children in Out-of-Home Placement* | 2013 | 6 | 4 | 19 | 16 |
| Juvenile Arrests* | 2012 | 14 | 15 | 11 | 11 |

*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 | 30 | 25 | 20 | 16 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 67 | 74 | 16 | 19 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 67 | 77 | 20 | 18 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 79 | 86 | 16 | 20 |



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

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Giving Every Child A Chance

NEWS



April 20, 2015

Contact: Nancy Parello, communications director, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031 (cell), nparello@acnj.org

Essex County Rises to 16th in Kids Count Rankings

Essex County rose to 16th 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 17th.

Essex County made the most progress in lowering the percent of income families spent on child care, advancing from 20th last year to 16th place in the Kids Count rankings. The county also improved in several measures of child poverty, including percent unemployed and median family income.

The county lost ground, however, in student performance on state test among 4th and 11th graders and the rate of child abuse or neglect investigations.

“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.

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Following are some key trends in Essex County.

Child poverty. With no change from the year prior, 25 percent of Essex County children lived in families that earned too little to meet their needs in 2013 – much higher than the state average of 17 percent. Other counties saw increases, however, resulting in Essex jumping in the rankings from 20th to 16th place.

During that same time, the percent of Essex families spending more than the recommended 30 percent of their income on rent declined slightly, from 54 percent to 53 percent. This still surpasses the statewide percent of 51 and as a result of other counties exceeding Essex on this indicator, the county dropped in the rankings from 12th to 14th percent.

Median income for families with children also saw a positive shift, increasing from nearly \$59,400 to more than \$60,500 from 2012 to 2013. In addition, the county saw a slight decline in the unemployment rate at 7 percent in 2014, compared to 7.8 in 2013.

Child health. Essex County posted positive improvements in areas of child health. The county saw a decrease from 8 to 7 percent of birth to teens and a drop in its infant mortality rate from 7 deaths per 1,000 live births to 6 deaths in 2011, the most recent year that data are available.

Child care costs. Although it is recommended that a family spend no more than 10 percent of their income on child care, the average Essex family with one infant and one preschooler in center-based care spent 30 percent of their income on child care in 2013. This is higher than the state average of 25 percent, but an improvement from the prior year's rate of 33 percent. Essex advanced from 20th to 16th on this measure.

Child safety. Essex saw an uptick in child abuse or neglect investigations at 55 per 1,000 children, up from 54 in 2012 -- surpassing the statewide average of 47.

Test scores. In 2014, Essex fell state test performance among 4th and 11th graders with a pass rate of 67 and 79 percent, respectively. The 8th grade pass rate was unchanged from 2012-13 to 2013-14 at 67 percent, but the county still inched up in the Kids Count ranking, from 20th to 18th place.

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.”

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Gloucester County

2015 County Rank: 10

2015 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2014 County Rank: 11

| | Year | County | NJ | 2014 Rank | 2015 Rank |
|---------------------|------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| DEMOGRAPHICS | | | | | |
| Child Population | 2013 | 67,580 | 2,022,117 | 14 | 14 |
| Total Population | 2013 | 290,265 | 8,899,339 | 14 | 14 |

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----|----|
| FAMILY ECONOMICS | | | | | |
| Percentage of Children in Poverty | 2013 | 13 | 17 | 8 | 10 |
| Median Income of Families with Children | 2013 | \$95,938 | \$85,248 | 8 | 7 |
| Percentage Unemployed | 2014 | 6.1 | 5.7 | 11 | 12 |
| Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent | 2013 | 48 | 51 | 13 | 5 |
| Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast | 2014-15* | 34 | 41 | 12 | 13 |

*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 | 81 | 79 | 10 | 9 |
| Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19 | 2011 | 5 | 5 | 11 | 12 |
| Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births) | 2011 | 6 | 5 | 12 | 16 |
| Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations* | 2013 | 65 | 47 | 15 | 15 |
| Children in Out-of-Home Placement* | 2013 | 6 | 4 | 14 | 17 |
| Juvenile Arrests* | 2012 | 15 | 15 | 12 | 12 |

*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 | 20 | 25 | 5 | 2 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 76 | 74 | 11 | 10 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 80 | 77 | 8 | 7 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 88 | 86 | 8 | 7 |



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

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NEWS



April 20, 2015

Contact: Nancy Parello, communications director, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031 (cell),
nparello@acnj.org

Gloucester County Rises to 10th in Kids Count Rankings

Gloucester County rose to 10th 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 11th.

Gloucester County made the most progress in a number of child poverty measures, including median family income, percent unemployed and the percent of households spending too much of their income on rent.

Still, the county saw a spike in the percent of children living in poverty and the rate at which children are placed in foster care.

“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 Gloucester County.

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Family economics. The percent of Gloucester children living in poverty increased from 10 to 13 percent from 2012 to 2013. The county dropped in the rankings from 8th to 10th in the state on this important measure of child well-being. However, during this same time, median income for families with children saw a positive shift, rising from about \$93,000 to \$96,000 between 2012 and 2013. The county moved from 8th to 7th this year on this measure. In addition, Gloucester saw a slight improvement in the unemployment rate, from 6.9 to 6.1 percent from 2013 to 2014.

In 2013, 48 percent of Gloucester households spent more than the recommended 30 percent of their income on rental costs, less than the statewide average of 51 percent and a marked improvement from 55 percent the year before. Gloucester jumped to 5th on this measure from 13th last year.

Child safety. The rate at which children are placed in foster care inched up from 5 children per 1,000 under 18 to 6 in 2013 – higher than the statewide average of 4 percent. The county dropped to 17th from 14th on this indicator.

Child care costs. The average Gloucester family spent 20 percent of household income on center-based child care for an infant and toddler, compared to a statewide average of 25 percent. National standards say families should spend no more than 10 percent of income on child care. Despite no change from the previous year, other counties trailed in this indicator, helping Gloucester advance to 2nd place from 5th on this measure.

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.
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Hudson County

2015 County Rank: 15

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

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Contact: Nancy Parello, communications director, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031 (cell), nparello@acnj.org

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.

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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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Hunterdon County

2015 County Rank: 2

2015 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2014 County Rank: 1

| | Year | County | NJ | 2014 Rank | 2015 Rank |
|---------------------|------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| DEMOGRAPHICS | | | | | |
| Child Population | 2013 | 27,464 | 2,022,117 | 18 | 18 |
| Total Population | 2013 | 126,250 | 8,899,339 | 18 | 18 |

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|-----------|----------|----|----|
| FAMILY ECONOMICS | | | | | |
| Percentage of Children in Poverty | 2013 | 3 | 17 | 2 | 1 |
| Median Income of Families with Children | 2013 | \$140,648 | \$85,248 | 1 | 1 |
| Percentage Unemployed | 2014 | 4.1 | 5.7 | 1 | 1 |
| Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent | 2013 | 51 | 51 | 1 | 13 |
| Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast | 2014-15* | 16 | 41 | 21 | 20 |

*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 | 93 | 79 | 1 | 1 |
| Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19 | 2011 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births) | 2011 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations* | 2013 | 28 | 47 | 3 | 5 |
| Children in Out-of-Home Placement* | 2013 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| Juvenile Arrests* | 2012 | 11 | 15 | 7 | 7 |

*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 | 18 | 25 | 2 | 1 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 85 | 74 | 1 | 2 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 91 | 77 | 1 | 1 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 95 | 86 | 1 | 1 |



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



April 20, 2015

Contact: Nancy Parello, communications director, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031 (cell), nparello@acnj.org

Hunterdon Slips to 2nd Place in Kids Count Rankings

Hunterdon County slipped to second 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 first.

Hunterdon continues to have some of the best outcomes for New Jersey children, with the lowest rate of child poverty and unemployment, the highest median income and high student performance on state tests.

Not all news was good. Hunterdon saw a sharp spike in the percentage of families spending more than the recommended 30 percent of their income on rent, dropping to 13th from first place on this indicator.

“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,

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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 Hunterdon County.

Family economics. The percent of children living in families earning too little to meet their needs declined from 5 to 3 percent from 2012 to 2013. In addition, the unemployment rate dropped to 4.1 percent from 4.7 and median income climbed nearly \$8,600 to \$140,648. Hunterdon placed first on all three indicators.

Housing costs. In 2013, Hunterdon saw a sharp increase in the percent of households spending more than the recommended 30 percent of income on rent, from 40 to 51 percent. This pushed the county from ranking first in the state on this measure to 13th.

School breakfast. The county showed slight progress in the percent of low-income children receiving breakfast at school, helping Hunterdon move from last place on this measure to 20th. Hunterdon fed 16 percent of eligible students – up from 14 percent in 2012-13, but still far below the state average of 41 percent.

Test scores. Hunterdon remained first for student performance on state tests in 8th and 11th grade, with pass rates of 91 and 95 percent, respectively. However, the pass rate for 4th graders declined from 88 to 85 percent, pushing the county out of first place and into second, on this measure. This rate, however, is still far surpasses the statewide average of 74.

Child care costs. Hunterdon's working parents spent 18 percent of their income on child care for an infant and toddler, compared to a statewide average of 25 percent, ranking first on this indicator. National standards say families should spend no more than 10 percent of income on child care.

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.”

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2015 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2014 County Rank: 13

| | Year | County | NJ | 2014 Rank | 2015 Rank |
|---------------------|------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| DEMOGRAPHICS | | | | | |
| Child Population | 2013 | 81,519 | 2,022,117 | 12 | 12 |
| Total Population | 2013 | 370,414 | 8,899,339 | 12 | 12 |

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----|----|
| FAMILY ECONOMICS | | | | | |
| Percentage of Children in Poverty | 2013 | 16 | 17 | 13 | 13 |
| Median Income of Families with Children | 2013 | \$89,172 | \$85,248 | 7 | 10 |
| Percentage Unemployed | 2014 | 4.6 | 5.7 | 4 | 4 |
| Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent | 2013 | 48 | 51 | 10 | 4 |
| Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast | 2014-15* | 38 | 41 | 11 | 9 |

*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 | 73 | 79 | 13 | 17 |
| Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19 | 2011 | 7 | 5 | 14 | 14 |
| Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births) | 2011 | 7 | 5 | 18 | 18 |
| Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations* | 2013 | 49 | 47 | 11 | 10 |
| Children in Out-of-Home Placement* | 2013 | 5 | 4 | 11 | 12 |
| Juvenile Arrests* | 2012 | 22 | 15 | 17 | 17 |

*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 | 28 | 25 | 11 | 14 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 72 | 74 | 14 | 14 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 75 | 77 | 14 | 13 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 85 | 86 | 13 | 13 |



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



April 20, 2015

Contact: Nancy Parello, communications director, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031 (cell), nparello@acnj.org

Mercer Remains 13th in Kids Count Rankings

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

Mercer saw some progress in a couple of key areas, including declines in unemployment and the percent of households spending too much on rent, and an increase in school breakfast participation.

The county, however, saw a drop in the percentage of women receiving early prenatal care, pushing Mercer from 13th to 17th place on this measure. In addition, Mercer families spent more of their income on licensed child care, from 24 to 28 percent.

“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.

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Following are some key trends in Mercer County.

Child poverty. Despite a rise in the number of children living in poverty in 2013 from 15 to 16 percent and a drop in median family income from nearly \$100,000 to \$89,000, fewer households were spending more than the recommended 30 percent of their income on rent. In 2013, 48 percent of families spent too much on housing compared to 53 percent the previous year. This progress helped Mercer advance from 10th to 4th place in the rankings on this measure.

School breakfast. Mercer schools made headway in providing more low-income children with a healthy breakfast, rising from 30 to 38 percent in 2013-14, advancing the county to 9th from 11th last year. Still, Mercer schools fell short of the statewide average of 41 percent student participation. As many Mercer families continue to struggle financially, this critical program can help address childhood hunger.

Child health. The county saw a decrease from 78 to 73 percent of women receiving early prenatal care in 2011, the most recent year that data are available. As a result, Mercer moved from 13th to 17th on this indicator.

Child care costs. Mercer's working parents spent 28 percent of their income on child care for an infant and toddler in 2013 – more than the 24 percent from the previous year and higher than the statewide average of 25 percent. The county fell to 14th place from 11th place on this indicator. National standards say families should spend no more than 10 percent of income on child care.

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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Middlesex County

2015 County Rank: 4

2015 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2014 County Rank: 5

| | Year | County | NJ | 2014 Rank | 2015 Rank |
|---------------------|------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| DEMOGRAPHICS | | | | | |
| Child Population | 2013 | 184,382 | 2,022,117 | 3 | 3 |
| Total Population | 2013 | 828,919 | 8,899,339 | 2 | 2 |

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----|---|
| FAMILY ECONOMICS | | | | | |
| Percentage of Children in Poverty | 2013 | 13 | 17 | 11 | 9 |
| Median Income of Families with Children | 2013 | \$94,581 | \$85,248 | 10 | 8 |
| Percentage Unemployed | 2014 | 5.1 | 5.7 | 7 | 7 |
| Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent | 2013 | 48 | 51 | 5 | 5 |
| Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast | 2014-15* | 43 | 41 | 5 | 8 |

*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 | 86 | 79 | 5 | 5 |
| Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19 | 2011 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births) | 2011 | 4 | 5 | 11 | 12 |
| Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations* | 2013 | 35 | 47 | 5 | 5 |
| Children in Out-of-Home Placement* | 2013 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Juvenile Arrests* | 2012 | 9 | 15 | 1 | 1 |

*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 | 24 | 25 | 9 | 10 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 77 | 74 | 9 | 8 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 78 | 77 | 12 | 11 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 88 | 86 | 9 | 10 |



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



April 20, 2015

Contact: Nancy Parello, communications director, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031 (cell), nparello@acnj.org

Middlesex County Advances to 4th Place in Kids Count Rankings

Middlesex County advanced to 4th 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 5th.

Middlesex made progress in key areas, including a drop in child poverty, an increase in median family income and lower unemployment. The county remained steady in most other areas, but lost ground in a higher portion of household income spent on child care.

“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 Middlesex County.

Giving Every Child A Chance

Family economics. The percent of children living in families earning too little to meet their needs declined from 14 to 13 percent from 2012 to 2013, pushing the county to 9th statewide from 11th last year.

During that same period, median family income climbed from about \$91,600 to about \$94,600. Unemployment dropped from nearly 6 percent to about 5 percent in 2014.

School breakfast. Middlesex County achieved a small increase in the percent of low-income children receiving breakfast at school, feeding 43 percent of eligible students in 2013-14, compared to 39 percent the year before. But other counties made much stronger progress, so Middlesex dropped from 5th to 8th on this important measure of child well-being.

Child care costs. The average Middlesex County family spent 24 percent of income on child care in 2013, up slightly from 23 percent the year before. This moved the county from 9th to 10th place, but Middlesex families still spend slightly less than the statewide average of 25 percent.

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.

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Monmouth County

2015 County Rank: 7

2015 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2014 County Rank: 7

| | Year | County | NJ | 2014 Rank | 2015 Rank |
|---------------------|------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| DEMOGRAPHICS | | | | | |
| Child Population | 2013 | 142,247 | 2,022,117 | 4 | 4 |
| Total Population | 2013 | 629,672 | 8,899,339 | 5 | 5 |

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|-----------|----------|----|----|
| FAMILY ECONOMICS | | | | | |
| Percentage of Children in Poverty | 2013 | 10 | 17 | 7 | 6 |
| Median Income of Families with Children | 2013 | \$106,180 | \$85,248 | 5 | 5 |
| Percentage Unemployed | 2014 | 5.3 | 5.7 | 8 | 9 |
| Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent | 2013 | 54 | 51 | 15 | 16 |
| Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast | 2014-15* | 31 | 41 | 13 | 14 |

*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 | 83 | 79 | 6 | 8 |
| Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19 | 2011 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 8 |
| Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births) | 2011 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 1 |
| Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations* | 2013 | 41 | 47 | 7 | 7 |
| Children in Out-of-Home Placement* | 2013 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 7 |
| Juvenile Arrests* | 2012 | 15 | 15 | 13 | 13 |

*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 | 21 | 25 | 6 | 5 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 80 | 74 | 5 | 6 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 84 | 77 | 5 | 5 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 90 | 86 | 4 | 5 |



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



April 20, 2015

Contact: Nancy Parello, communications director, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031 (cell), nparello@acnj.org

Monmouth County Remains Steady at 7th in Kids Count Rankings

Monmouth County remained steady at 7th place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measure progress in improving the lives of children in 13 critical areas.

Monmouth made some progress, with rising median family income, lower unemployment and a smaller percent of households spending too much on rent.

The county lost ground in the percent of women receiving early prenatal care and an increase in child poverty.

“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 Monmouth County.

Giving Every Child A Chance

Family economics. The percent of children living in families earning too little to meet their needs rose from 9 to 10 percent from 2012 to 2013, but the county still remains below the statewide average of 17 percent.

During that same period, median family income climbed from about \$103,400 to more than \$106,000. A lower percentage of Monmouth households spent more than the recommended 30 percent of income on rent in 2013 – dropping to 54 percent from 56 percent the previous year.

Prenatal care/infant mortality. A lower percentage of Monmouth women received early prenatal care, dropping from 85 percent in 2010 to 83 percent in 2011 – the latest year for which data are available. This pushed Monmouth from 6th to 8th in the state on this measure.

School breakfast. Monmouth County achieved a small increase in the percent of low-income students receiving breakfast at school, feeding 31 percent of eligible students in 2013-14, compared to 28 percent the year before. But other counties made much stronger progress, so Monmouth dropped from 13th to 14th on this important measure of child well-being.

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

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2015 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2014 County Rank: 2

| | Year | County | NJ | 2014 Rank | 2015 Rank |
|---------------------|------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| DEMOGRAPHICS | | | | | |
| Child Population | 2013 | 112,965 | 2,022,117 | 10 | 10 |
| Total Population | 2013 | 499,397 | 8,899,339 | 10 | 10 |

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|-----------|----------|----|----|
| FAMILY ECONOMICS | | | | | |
| Percentage of Children in Poverty | 2013 | 4 | 17 | 1 | 2 |
| Median Income of Families with Children | 2013 | \$133,624 | \$85,248 | 2 | 2 |
| Percentage Unemployed | 2014 | 4.3 | 5.7 | 2 | 2 |
| Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent | 2013 | 39 | 51 | 3 | 2 |
| Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast | 2014-15* | 19 | 41 | 18 | 19 |

*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 | 91 | 79 | 3 | 3 |
| Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19 | 2011 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births) | 2011 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 9 |
| Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations* | 2013 | 29 | 47 | 2 | 3 |
| Children in Out-of-Home Placement* | 2013 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Juvenile Arrests* | 2012 | 10 | 15 | 3 | 3 |

*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 | 20 | 25 | 7 | 3 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 86 | 74 | 7 | 1 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 89 | 77 | 2 | 2 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 92 | 86 | 2 | 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.



Giving Every Child A Chance

NEWS



April 20, 2015

Contact: Nancy Parello, communications director, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031 (cell), nparello@acnj.org

Morris Reclaims 1st Place in Kids Count Rankings

Morris County reclaimed 1st 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 2nd behind Hunterdon County.

Morris saw progress in several key areas, including fewer households spending too much on rent and a low child poverty rate. The county ranked first for a low rate of births to teens and a high percentage of 4th graders passing state tests.

The county lost ground, however, in the percent of low-income children receiving breakfast at school.

“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.

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Following are some key trends in Morris County.

Family economics. Morris had the second lowest child poverty rate in the state at 4 percent, behind Hunterdon. In addition, a lower percentage of Morris households spent more than the recommended 30 percent of income on rent in 2013 – dropping to 39 percent from 44 percent the previous year. This moved the county from 3rd to 2nd place on this measure.

School breakfast. Morris County was one of the few that experienced a decrease in the percent of low-income students receiving breakfast at school, feeding just 19 percent of eligible students in 2013-14, compared to 21 percent in 2012-13. This pushed Morris to 19th statewide from 18th last year on this important measure of child well-being.

Fourth-grade tests. The percentage of Morris County 4th graders passing state tests climbed from 80 percent in 2012-13 to 86 percent in 2013-14, moving the county from 7th to 1st on this indicator. This was the county's most significant rise in the rankings.

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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Jersey is a statewide child research and action organization and the New Jersey Kids Count grantee.

2015 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2014 County Rank: 10

| | Year | County | NJ | 2014 Rank | 2015 Rank |
|---------------------|------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| DEMOGRAPHICS | | | | | |
| Child Population | 2013 | 136,935 | 2,022,117 | 5 | 5 |
| Total Population | 2013 | 583,414 | 8,899,339 | 6 | 6 |

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----|----|
| FAMILY ECONOMICS | | | | | |
| Percentage of Children in Poverty | 2013 | 19 | 17 | 15 | 14 |
| Median Income of Families with Children | 2013 | \$76,391 | \$85,248 | 12 | 13 |
| Percentage Unemployed | 2014 | 6.3 | 5.7 | 14 | 13 |
| Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent | 2013 | 58 | 51 | 19 | 19 |
| Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast | 2014-15* | 34 | 41 | 9 | 12 |

*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 | 78 | 79 | 12 | 14 |
| Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19 | 2011 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 6 |
| Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births) | 2011 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 5 |
| Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations* | 2013 | 45 | 47 | 12 | 8 |
| Children in Out-of-Home Placement* | 2013 | 9 | 4 | 10 | 10 |
| Juvenile Arrests* | 2012 | 10 | 15 | 4 | 4 |

*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 | 27 | 25 | 13 | 12 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 76 | 74 | 10 | 11 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 79 | 77 | 8 | 10 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 87 | 86 | 12 | 12 |



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



April 20, 2015

Contact: Nancy Parello, communications director, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031 (cell), nparello@acnj.org

Ocean Slips to 11th Place in Kids Count Rankings

Ocean County slipped to 11th 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 10th.

Ocean saw progress in a couple of areas, including a decline in both unemployment and the percent of households spending too much on rent.

The county lost ground, however, in other key areas, including a slight increase in child poverty, a decrease in median family income and more families spending a higher portion of income on child care.

“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,

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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 Ocean County.

Family economics. The percent of children living in families earning too little to meet their needs rose from 18 to 19 percent from 2012 to 2013. Since other counties saw sharper increases, however, Ocean moved up in the rankings from 15th to 14th on this important measure of child well-being. Still, the county's child poverty rate remains higher than the statewide average of 17 percent.

During that same period, median family income dropped from nearly \$79,000 to a little more than \$76,000. This moved the county from 12th to 13th in the rankings on this measure. A lower percentage of Monmouth households spent more than the recommended 30 percent of income on rent in 2013 – dropping slightly to 58 percent from 59 percent the previous year.

School breakfast. Ocean County posted no increase in the percent of low-income students receiving breakfast at school, still feeding just 34 percent of eligible students in 2013-14. Other counties made strong progress, so Ocean dropped from 9th to 12th on this important measure of child well-being.

Child care. The average Ocean County family spent 27 percent of household income on child care in 2013, up from 25 percent the year before. Still, families in some other counties experienced higher increases, so Ocean moved to 12th place for this indicator, from 13th last year.

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.”

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###

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2015 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2014 County Rank: 16

| | Year | County | NJ | 2014 Rank | 2015 Rank |
|---------------------|------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| DEMOGRAPHICS | | | | | |
| Child Population | 2013 | 123,563 | 2,022,117 | 8 | 8 |
| Total Population | 2013 | 505,672 | 8,899,339 | 9 | 9 |

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----|----|
| FAMILY ECONOMICS | | | | | |
| Percentage of Children in Poverty | 2013 | 25 | 17 | 18 | 17 |
| Median Income of Families with Children | 2013 | \$56,484 | \$85,248 | 18 | 18 |
| Percentage Unemployed | 2014 | 7.1 | 5.7 | 18 | 18 |
| Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent | 2013 | 59 | 51 | 14 | 20 |
| Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast | 2014-15* | 43 | 41 | 7 | 7 |

*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 | 77 | 79 | 14 | 15 |
| Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19 | 2011 | 8 | 5 | 17 | 17 |
| Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births) | 2011 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 13 |
| Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations* | 2013 | 51 | 47 | 10 | 12 |
| Children in Out-of-Home Placement* | 2013 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 8 |
| Juvenile Arrests* | 2012 | 19 | 15 | 15 | 15 |

*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 | 36 | 25 | 21 | 20 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 65 | 74 | 20 | 19 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 64 | 77 | 18 | 20 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 79 | 86 | 19 | 19 |

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



April 20, 2015

Contact: Nancy Parello, communications director, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031 (cell), nparello@acnj.org

Passaic Slips to 18th Place in Kids Count Rankings

Passaic County slipped to 18th 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 16th.

Passaic saw some progress in certain areas, including a drop in unemployment and an increase in low-income children receiving breakfast at school. The county lost ground, however, in several areas, including a rise in child poverty, an increase in children who were possible victims of abuse or neglect and a drop in students passing 8th grade tests.

“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 Passaic County.

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Family economics. Passaic County's child poverty rate rose from 23 percent of children in 2012 to 25 percent in 2013. Because other counties saw sharper increases, the county moved to 17th place in the rankings on this measure from 18th last year. Unemployment declined from 8 percent in 2013 to 7 percent in 2014.

School breakfast. Passaic County saw an increase in the percent of low-income students receiving breakfast at school, feeding 43 percent of eligible students in 2013-14, compared to 36 percent in 2012-13. The county remained at 7th place for this measure, however, because several other counties achieved stronger increases.

Child abuse. Passaic saw an increase in the rate at which children were referred for a child abuse or neglect investigation, rising from 49 children per 1,000 under 18 to 51 in 2013.

Eight-grade tests. The percentage of Passaic County 8th graders passing state tests dropped from 68 percent in 2012-13 to 64 percent in 2013-14, moving the county from 18th to 20th on this indicator.

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.”

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###

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Jersey is a statewide child research and action organization and the New Jersey Kids Count grantee.

Salem County

2015 County Rank: 19

2015 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2014 County Rank: 19

| | Year | County | NJ | 2014 Rank | 2015 Rank |
|---------------------|------|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| DEMOGRAPHICS | | | | | |
| Child Population | 2013 | 14,680 | 2,022,117 | 21 | 21 |
| Total Population | 2013 | 65,166 | 8,899,339 | 21 | 21 |

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----|----|
| FAMILY ECONOMICS | | | | | |
| Percentage of Children in Poverty | 2013 | 38 | 17 | 12 | 21 |
| Median Income of Families with Children | 2013 | \$60,185 | \$85,248 | 13 | 17 |
| Percentage Unemployed | 2014 | 6.6 | 5.7 | 13 | 16 |
| Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent | 2013 | 47 | 51 | 11 | 3 |
| Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast | 2014-15* | 35 | 41 | 14 | 11 |

*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 | 70 | 79 | 20 | 19 |
| Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19 | 2011 | 11 | 5 | 20 | 20 |
| Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births) | 2011 | 5 | 5 | 20 | 15 |
| Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations* | 2013 | 91 | 47 | 20 | 20 |
| Children in Out-of-Home Placement* | 2013 | 7 | 4 | 18 | 18 |
| Juvenile Arrests* | 2012 | 30 | 15 | 19 | 19 |

*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 | 29 | 25 | 10 | 15 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 69 | 74 | 15 | 15 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 71 | 77 | 16 | 16 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 80 | 86 | 18 | 18 |



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



April 20, 2015

Contact: Nancy Parelo, communications director, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031 (cell), nparelo@acnj.org

Salem Remains Steady at 19th Place in Kids Count Rankings

Salem County remained steady at 19th place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measure progress in improving the lives of children in 13 critical areas.

Salem experienced a significant jump in child poverty, rising from 14 percent of children in 2012 to a concerning 38 percent in 2013. It is unclear what may have caused this sharp increase. This pushed the county from 12th to last statewide on this critical measure of child well-being.

But Salem saw positive trends in other areas, including a decrease in households spending too much on rent and an increase in low-income children receiving breakfast at school.

“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.

Giving Every Child A Chance

Following are some key trends in Salem County.

Family economics. As child poverty rose, median family income dropped significantly, from about \$76,000 in 2012 to about \$60,000 in 2013. The good news is that a smaller percent of Salem households spent more than the recommended 30 percent of income on rent, dropping from 54 percent in 2012 to 47 percent in 2013. This moved Salem up in the rankings from 11th to 3rd place on this measure.

School breakfast. Salem County posted an increase in the percent of low-income students receiving breakfast at school, feeding 35 percent of eligible students in 2013-14, compared to 28 percent in 2012-13. The county advanced from 14th to 11th for this measure.

Child care costs. The average Salem County family spent 29 percent of income on child care in 2013, compared to 23 in 2012. This moved the county from 10th to 15th. National standards recommend that families spend no more than 10 percent of household income on child care.

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

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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.”

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Jersey is a statewide child research and action organization and the New Jersey Kids Count grantee.

Somerset County

2015 County Rank: 3

2015 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2014 County Rank: 3

| | Year | County | NJ | 2014 Rank | 2015 Rank |
|---------------------|------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| DEMOGRAPHICS | | | | | |
| Child Population | 2013 | 77,986 | 2,022,117 | 13 | 13 |
| Total Population | 2013 | 330,585 | 8,899,339 | 13 | 13 |

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|-----------|----------|----|----|
| FAMILY ECONOMICS | | | | | |
| Percentage of Children in Poverty | 2013 | 5 | 17 | 5 | 3 |
| Median Income of Families with Children | 2013 | \$129,763 | \$85,248 | 3 | 3 |
| Percentage Unemployed | 2014 | 4.4 | 5.7 | 3 | 3 |
| Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent | 2013 | 38 | 51 | 8 | 1 |
| Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast | 2014-15* | 29 | 41 | 19 | 15 |

*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 | 91 | 79 | 2 | 2 |
| Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19 | 2011 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births) | 2011 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations* | 2013 | 33 | 47 | 4 | 4 |
| Children in Out-of-Home Placement* | 2013 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Juvenile Arrests* | 2012 | 11 | 15 | 8 | 8 |

*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 | 21 | 25 | 11 | 6 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 83 | 74 | 3 | 4 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 87 | 77 | 3 | 3 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 92 | 86 | 3 | 2 |



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



April 20, 2015

Contact: Nancy Parello, communications director, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031 (cell), nparello@acnj.org

Somerset Remains Steady at 3rd Place in Kids Count Rankings

Somerset County remained steady at 3rd place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measure progress in improving the lives of children in 13 critical areas.

Somerset improved in several key areas, including a drop in child poverty and increases in both median family income and the percent of low-income children receiving breakfast at school. The county also saw fewer households spending too much on rent, pushing it to first statewide for this measure.

“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 Somerset County.

Giving Every Child A Chance

Family economics. Somerset’s child poverty rate dropped from 8 percent in 2012 to 5 percent in 2013, advancing the county to 3rd statewide from 5th last year. At the same time, median family income increased significantly, from about \$112,000 in 2012 to nearly \$130,000 in 2013. In addition, a smaller percent of Somerset households spent more than the recommended 30 percent of income on rent, dropping from 50 percent in 2012 to 38 percent in 2013, pushing the county to first on this measure.

School breakfast. Somerset County posted an increase in the percent of low-income students receiving breakfast at school, feeding 29 percent of eligible students in 2013-14, compared to 17 percent in 2012-13. The county advanced from 19th to 15th for this measure. Still, Somerset schools fed less than the statewide average of 41 percent of eligible children.

Child care costs. The average Somerset family spent a smaller portion of their household income on child care in 2013, dropping from 24 percent of income in 2012 to 21 percent. This moved the county from 11th to 6th place statewide.

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

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2015 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2014 County Rank: 8

| | Year | County | NJ | 2014 Rank | 2015 Rank |
|---------------------|------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| DEMOGRAPHICS | | | | | |
| Child Population | 2013 | 32,137 | 2,022,117 | 17 | 17 |
| Total Population | 2013 | 145,992 | 8,899,339 | 17 | 17 |

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|-----------|----------|----|----|
| FAMILY ECONOMICS | | | | | |
| Percentage of Children in Poverty | 2013 | 7 | 17 | 6 | 4 |
| Median Income of Families with Children | 2013 | \$105,313 | \$85,248 | 6 | 6 |
| Percentage Unemployed | 2014 | 5.1 | 5.7 | 9 | 7 |
| Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent | 2013 | 48 | 51 | 20 | 9 |
| Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast | 2014-15* | 16 | 41 | 20 | 21 |

*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 | 89 | 79 | 4 | 4 |
| Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19 | 2011 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 9 |
| Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births) | 2011 | 2 | 5 | 15 | 4 |
| Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations* | 2013 | 47 | 47 | 13 | 9 |
| Children in Out-of-Home Placement* | 2013 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 6 |
| Juvenile Arrests* | 2012 | 11 | 15 | 6 | 6 |

*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 | 20 | 25 | 4 | 3 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 82 | 74 | 4 | 5 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 82 | 77 | 6 | 6 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 89 | 86 | 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



Contact: Nancy Parello, communications director, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031 (cell), nparello@acnj.org

Sussex County Advances to 6th Place in Kids Count Rankings

Sussex County advanced to 6th 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 8th.

Sussex posted positive trends in several key areas, including a drop in child poverty, an increase in median family income and a decline in the percent of households paying too much for rent. The only area where Sussex saw a significant negative trend was in an increase in its infant mortality rate.

“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 Sussex County.

Giving Every Child A Chance

Family economics. The percent of Sussex children living in poverty declined from 9 percent in 2012 to 7 percent in 2013, pushing Sussex to 4th statewide on this measure, up from 6th last year. At the same time, median family income rose from nearly \$101,000 to more than \$105,000. Sussex had the 6th highest median income statewide.

Also, a smaller percentage of Sussex households spent more than the recommended 30 percent of income on rent, dropping from 60 percent in 2012 to 48 percent in 2013. This moved Sussex up from nearly last in the state to 9th.

School breakfast. While Sussex schools achieved a small increase in the percent of low-income students receiving breakfast at school, the county still lagged far behind the statewide average and ranked last for this critical measure. Sussex schools fed just 16 percent of eligible students in 2013-14, compared to 14 percent in 2012-13. The statewide average is 41 percent.

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.

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Union County

2015 County Rank: 12

2015 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2014 County Rank: 12

| | Year | County | NJ | 2014 Rank | 2015 Rank |
|---------------------|------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| DEMOGRAPHICS | | | | | |
| Child Population | 2013 | 131,432 | 2,022,117 | 7 | 7 |
| Total Population | 2013 | 548,256 | 8,899,339 | 7 | 7 |

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----|----|
| FAMILY ECONOMICS | | | | | |
| Percentage of Children in Poverty | 2013 | 14 | 17 | 14 | 11 |
| Median Income of Families with Children | 2013 | \$70,671 | \$85,248 | 15 | 14 |
| Percentage Unemployed | 2014 | 6 | 5.7 | 11 | 11 |
| Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent | 2013 | 54 | 51 | 16 | 15 |
| Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast | 2014-15* | 37 | 41 | 8 | 10 |

*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 | 79 | 79 | 11 | 13 |
| Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19 | 2011 | 5 | 5 | 13 | 13 |
| Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births) | 2011 | 5 | 5 | 13 | 14 |
| Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations* | 2013 | 36 | 47 | 6 | 6 |
| Children in Out-of-Home Placement* | 2013 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 8 |
| Juvenile Arrests* | 2012 | 10 | 15 | 4 | 4 |

*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 | 31 | 25 | 17 | 17 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 74 | 74 | 13 | 13 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 74 | 77 | 13 | 13 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 83 | 86 | 14 | 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. 

Giving Every Child A Chance

NEWS



April 20, 2015

Contact: Nancy Parello, communications director, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031 (cell), nparello@acnj.org

Union County Remains Steady at 12th Place in Kids Count Rankings

Union County remained steady at 12th place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measure progress in improving the lives of children in 13 critical areas.

Union saw a positive drop in child poverty, going from 17 percent of Union County children in 2012 to 14 percent of children in 2013. This moved Union up to 11th place in the Kids Count rankings for this measure, from 14th last year. The county also saw fewer households paying too much for rent and a drop in unemployment.

“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 Union County.

Giving Every Child A Chance

Family economics. Median family income dipped slightly for the average Union County family, from nearly \$72,000 to about \$70,600 but the county actually moved up to 14th in the rankings because some other counties saw steeper drops. At the same time, however, a smaller percentage of Union households spent more than the recommended 30 percent of income on rent, dropping from 57 percent in 2012 to 54 percent in 2013. This moved Union up to 15th from 16th on this measure.

School breakfast. Union schools saw a small increase in the percent of low-income students receiving breakfast at school, feeding 37 percent of eligible students in 2013-14, compared to 36 percent in 2012-13. But the county dropped in the rankings on this indicator, going from 8th to 10th, because some other counties made much stronger progress on this front.

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.

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Warren County

2015 County Rank: 8

2015 KIDS COUNT COUNTY PROFILES

2014 County Rank: 6

| | Year | County | NJ | 2014 Rank | 2015 Rank |
|---------------------|------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| DEMOGRAPHICS | | | | | |
| Child Population | 2013 | 23,675 | 2,022,117 | 19 | 19 |
| Total Population | 2013 | 107,379 | 8,899,339 | 19 | 19 |

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----|----|
| FAMILY ECONOMICS | | | | | |
| Percentage of Children in Poverty | 2013 | 15 | 17 | 3 | 12 |
| Median Income of Families with Children | 2013 | \$83,197 | \$85,248 | 11 | 11 |
| Percentage Unemployed | 2014 | 5 | 5.7 | 6 | 6 |
| Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent | 2013 | 51 | 51 | 2 | 11 |
| Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast | 2014-15* | 28 | 41 | 15 | 16 |

*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 | 86 | 79 | 7 | 6 |
| Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19 | 2011 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 5 |
| Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births) | 2011 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 2 |
| Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations* | 2013 | 66 | 47 | 16 | 16 |
| Children in Out-of-Home Placement* | 2013 | 5 | 4 | 16 | 14 |
| Juvenile Arrests* | 2012 | 9 | 15 | 2 | 2 |

*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 | 24 | 25 | 1 | 9 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 79 | 74 | 6 | 7 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 80 | 77 | 7 | 8 |
| Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests | 2013-14 | 88 | 86 | 7 | 8 |



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

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Giving Every Child A Chance

NEWS



April 20, 2015

Contact: Nancy Parello, communications director, (973) 643-3876 or (908) 399-6031 (cell), nparello@acnj.org

Warren Drops to 8th Place in Kids Count Rankings

Warren County dropped to 8th 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 6th.

Warren saw a sharp increase in the percentage of its children living in poverty, as well as a decrease in median family income and an increase in households paying too much for rent. On the positive side, Warren had more women receiving early prenatal care, fewer births to teens and fewer children in foster care.

“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.

Giving Every Child A Chance

Following are some key trends in Warren County.

Family economics. The percentage of Warren County children living in poverty grew from 7 percent in 2012 to 15 percent in 2013 – one of the largest increases statewide. This moved the county from 3rd to 12th in the Kids Count rankings for this measure.

At the same time, median family income dipped for the average Warren County family, from nearly \$89,000 to about \$83,000. Also, a higher percentage of Warren households spent more than the recommended 30 percent of income on rent, increasing from 43 percent in 2012 to 51 percent in 2013. As a result, Warren dropped from 2nd statewide to 11th on this measure.

Prenatal care/births to teens. More Warren County expectant mothers received early prenatal care, rising from 84 percent in 2010 to 86 percent in 2011 – the most recent year for which data are available. During the same time, births to females ages 10 to 19 declined from 4 percent of all births to 3 percent. The county ranked 5th and 6th on these measures, respectively.

Foster care. The rate at which Warren County children were placed in foster care declined from 6 children per 1,000 youth under age 18 in 2012 to 5 in 2013. This moved the county from 16th to 14th on this measure of child well-being.

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

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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

Demographics

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.

Family Economics

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.

Health and Safety

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 (NJACCRRRA), *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.