

# TRENTON AND MERCER COUNTY

## KIDS COUNT 2001

A CITY AND COUNTY PROFILE OF CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING

**Produced in partnership by:**

### **Millhill Child and Family Development Corporation**

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**This first edition of Kids Count for the Trenton/Mercer County area would not have been possible without the help of numerous individuals and community organizations. Please accept sincere thanks for your efforts and the information you made available to make this project a reality.**

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*Trenton Department of Health and Human Services*

*Trenton Division of Planning and Urban Development*

*Trenton's Stakeholder Group*

*Carolyn Wilson, Volunteer*

*WomanSpace*

## THE STEERING COMMITTEE

**The following individuals helped to provide the guidelines, information and resources necessary to produce this report. Their commitment to Trenton, Mercer County, and children and families is commendable.**

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*Millhill Child & Family Development Corp.*

*TEDCO, Inc.*

*Concerned Pastors of Trenton*

*UMDNJ Health Plans*

*TEDCO, Inc.*

*Mercer Street Friends*

*Ewing Township Service Center*

*Isles, Inc.*

*Trenton Youth Services Commission*

*United Way of Greater Mercer County*

*Trenton Public Schools*

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*Trenton Board of Education*

*Hamilton Township Service Center*

*Child Care Connection*

*Lawrence Township Neighborhood Center*

Special thanks to the families, individuals and students for posing as "models" for the photographs used in this project.

## KIDS COUNT

is a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF). The Foundation has worked for more than half a century to build better futures for disadvantaged children and their families in the United States. At the national level, AECF publishes the annual *Kids Count Data Book*, which uses the best available data to measure and track the status of children through educational, social, economic, and physical well-being of children indicators. In addition, The Foundation funds a nationwide network of state-level Kids Count projects that provide detailed data on child well-being in their state.

The Association for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ) is a non-profit, statewide child advocacy organization that acts as a non-partisan voice to improve the lives and living conditions of New Jersey's Children. Since 1991, ACNJ has been preparing a New Jersey State *Kids Count* project with funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. In 1996, the first *Newark Kids Count* publication was produced.

Millhill Child and Family Development Corporation is a non-profit organization based in Trenton with a thirty-year history dedicated to the creation of a center for families who have difficulty coping with poverty and the problems existing in the urban center. Millhill provides child daycare, education, social services, health screening, emotional and psychological support, referrals, and three nutritional meals a day to children from the community and those referred for protective service. In addition, Millhill works with parents through individual and group counseling, workshops and through its Parenting Center and Fatherhood Program.

Millhill has developed a relationship with ACNJ and was contacted about partnering with them on a *Trenton/Mercer County Kids Count* project.

There are many organizations and individuals providing services to the Trenton/Mercer County community. However, there was no one place or organization that gathers the statistics, demographics and other issues that affect children and families in the community.

There was a need for one source that could be updated every 12 – 24 months to which individuals,

information and to seek information on the status of children and families in our area.

The *Trenton and Mercer County Kids Count* 2001 data report is the first project of its kind for this area. The report will provide an opportunity to map and track the service needs and progress of children and their families over time. We hope to create a tool that not only raises awareness about the status of our children and their families but that will also be used by the community in advocacy efforts to improve their well-being.

*The purpose of Kids Count is to provide a snapshot of our children and families' well-being. Many conditions have improved in the past few years while others have worsened. We believe that by gathering the statistics on child health, mental health, the environment, education, housing, kinship care, work force issues, the juvenile justice system and others, we will provide a picture of the conditions that jeopardize our children today and have a major impact on their future.*

### TRENTON AND MERCER COUNTY KIDS COUNT 2001 DATA HIGHLIGHTS



About 600 newborn babies in Trenton live in a household without a father.



About 40% of the Trenton homeless parents could not afford to pay the rent or were evicted.



About 42% of children classified in the Trenton School District have multiple disabilities.



In 2000, there were 24% more Trenton first-graders with up-to-date immunizations than in 1995.



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08608

DOUGLAS H. PALMER  
MAYOR

609-989-3030

Dear Friends,

As Mayor of the City of Trenton, it gives me great pleasure to join Mercer County Executive Robert Prunetti in releasing the first Trenton/Mercer County Area Kids Count book. I would like to thank the Association for Children of New Jersey, Millhill Child & Family Development Corporation and all of the other individuals and agencies that collaborated on this excellent publication.

After 30 years of deep decline, Trenton is undergoing comprehensive revitalization. However, urban renewal is not just about brick and mortar economic development. It must include healthy starts for our children and a solid academic foundation that leads to economic prosperity for each citizen, and for the larger community.

The 2001 Trenton/Mercer County Area Kids Count book provides a starting point to examine the needs and strengths of our children. It is my sincere hope that this information will be used by government officials and citizens alike to guide our advocacy on behalf of children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas H. Palmer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Douglas H. Palmer  
Mayor



**ROBERT D. PRUNETTI**  
County Executive

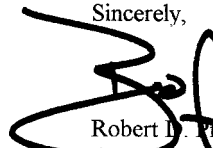
**COUNTY OF MERCER**  
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Greetings:

Throughout my career in public service, the quality of life of the children and families of Mercer County has always been one of my highest priorities. I firmly believe that strong families are the backbone of our community, and healthy families develop our most valuable resources; our children.

Much is happening in Mercer County to enable our children and families realize our full potential. Initiatives in education, child care and health care are happening throughout this community. I want to thank the members of this public-private partnership initiated by the Association for Children of New Jersey and the Mill Hill Child and Family Development Center for developing the Trenton/Mercer County Kids Count project, which culminated in this report.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Prunetti  
County Executive

## A Profile of a Single Mother

(The names have been changed to maintain this Trenton family's privacy.)

At nineteen Mary had just finished her first year of college when she learned that she was expecting a baby. She married the baby's father and they moved out of Trenton where the rents were more affordable and the neighborhood a little safer. They rented a one-bedroom apartment for \$525 a month.

After her second son was born, the bills really started to mount up. Although Mary wanted to be a full-time mom for her boys, she felt compelled to help out financially. She took a part-time job close to home where her hours were 5 p. m. to 1:00 a.m. Although the extra income helped support the family, the stresses of her job caused a major strain on her marriage. Her husband moved out.

Even though Mary's income was only \$1,200 a month, somehow she managed to save enough to buy a used car. This allowed Mary to drive to Trenton to pick up her brother so he could stay with her children while she worked. At 1:30 a.m. Mary would load her children into the car, take her brother home so he could make it to school the next day, and then return to her apartment and carry her boys back to their beds. The car turned out to be a lemon and broke down continuously.

Soon Mary learned about a housekeeping job that paid more (\$6.25 per hour plus tips). Her hours would be 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Mary received food stamps amounting to \$230 a month as long as she worked less than 35 hours/week. Once her work hours increased, she only received \$19 a month in food stamps. Child care arrangements were available free of charge; however, they only had a half day care and because of the children's ages (5 and 3), one

### Did you know that...

In 1998 there were 341 births to mothers 19 years old and younger in Trenton.

In 1998 there were 1,029 infants born to single mothers in Trenton.

In 2000 the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Mercer County was \$860 a month.

The minimum hourly wage of \$5.15 an hour is equal to \$10,712 a year working 40 hours a week.

In 2000 the federal poverty level for a family of three was \$14,150 a year.

In Mercer County the average cost of child care is \$543 a month.

In Trenton only 13 Child Care Centers provide infant/toddler care, 11 provide care to school-age children, and 15 Child Care Centers provide after hours care.

In 1999 6,114 Trenton Children Received Food Stamps Benefits.

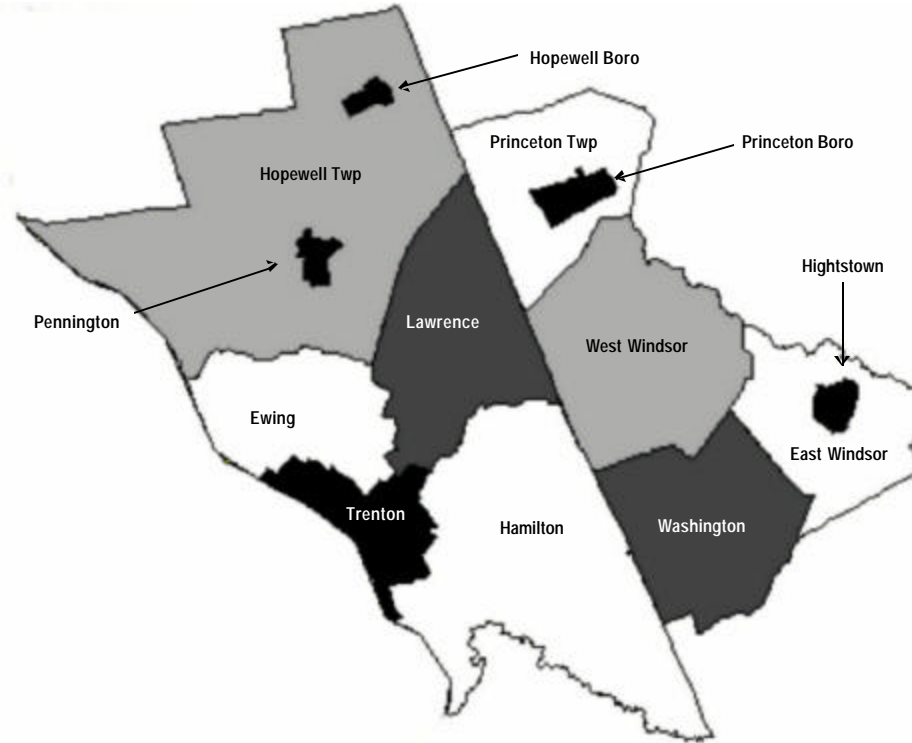
went in the morning and one went in the afternoon.

Soon her landlord started pressuring Mary about having two children in a one-bedroom apartment and increased her rent to \$645 a month.

Mary did everything she could think of to be a responsible parent and citizen. However, the stresses were catching up with her. In addition to the parenting role, Mary's mother was ill and needed her help. So, Mary and her children moved back to Trenton—it was a help for Mary to live in her mother's home where her mother was able to help look after the children and Mary's brother, who still lived at home, could also help. Mary was able to help her mother too. This arrangement also allowed Mary to take an evening job at a local grocery store where she worked 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. Now, after four years, Mary supervises 6 to 18 employees but has reached her peak salary at \$9.50 an hour.

Through Habitat for Humanity, Mary has now qualified for her own home.

# Mercer County



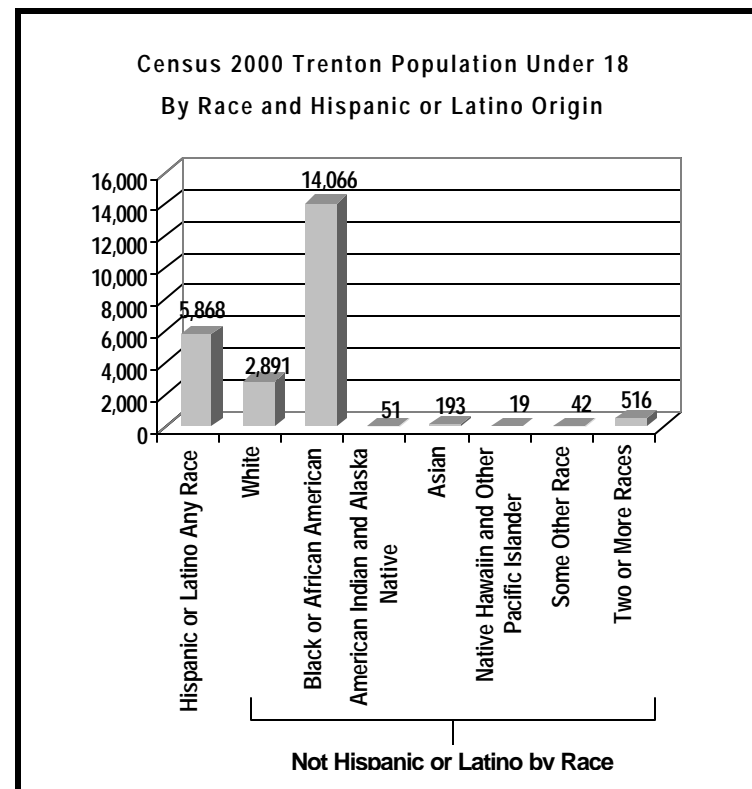
When reviewing  
data and ac-  
charts remem-

the City of Trenton is part of Mercer County.

the following  
companying  
ber that



|  |  | Trenton       | Mercer         | New Jersey       |
|--|--|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| Population   | 2000                                       | 85,403        | 350,761        | 8,414,350        |
|  | 1990 <sup>1</sup>                          | 88,675        | 325,824        | 7,730,188        |
| Population change 1990 to 2000                               | Number                                     | -3,272        | 24,937         | 684,162          |
|  | Percent                                    | -3.7          | 7.7            | 8.9              |
| Population Under 18 years old 2000                           |  | 23,646        | 84,337         | 2,087,558        |
| <b>Population by Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin 2000</b> |  |               |                |                  |
|  |  | Trenton       | Mercer         | New Jersey       |
| One Race   | White or Caucasian                         | 27,802        | 240,206        | 6,104,705        |
|  | Black or African American                  | 44,465        | 69,502         | 1,141,821        |
|  | American Indian And Alaska Native          | 300           | 688            | 19,492           |
|  | Asian                                      | 716           | 17,340         | 480,276          |
|  | Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander | 199           | 352            | 3,329            |
|  | Some other race                            | 9,190         | 15,054         | 450,972          |
|  | <b>Total One Race</b>                      | <b>82,672</b> | <b>343,142</b> | <b>8,200,595</b> |
| Two or more races  |  | 2,731         | 7,619          | 213,755          |
| Hispanic or Latino (of any race)                             |  | 18,391        | 33,898         | 1,117,191        |



<sup>1</sup> 1990 census counts are as published in 1990 census reports and thus do not include any changes published subsequently due to boundary changes or to the Count Question Resolution program.

NOTE: Data not adjusted based on the Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, non-sampling error, and definitions, see <http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/explu.html>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (P.L. 94-171) Summary File, Table PL1, and 1990 census.

| Temporary Assistance to Needy Families<br>Number of Children Receiving Benefits |         |        |            |
|---|---------|--------|------------|
|   | Trenton | Mercer | New Jersey |
| 1997  | 6,552   | 7,287  | 163,997    |
| 1998  | 5,382   | 6,034  | 131,633    |
| 1999  | 3,895   | 4,348  | 101,168    |
| Percent Change<br>1997 to 1999  | -40%    | -40%   | -38%       |

Source: NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development

| Food Stamps<br>Number of Children Receiving Benefits |         |        |            |
|--|---------|--------|------------|
|  | Trenton | Mercer | New Jersey |
| 1997   | 8,294   | 9,092  | 231,089    |
| 1998   | 7,252   | 8,019  | 202,021    |
| 1999   | 6,114   | 6,730  | 175,767    |
| Percent Change 1997<br>to 1999                       | -26%    | -26%   | -24%       |

Source: NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development

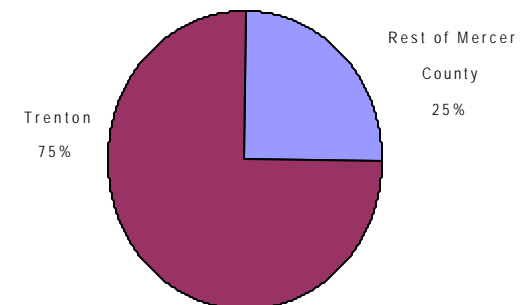
| Children Receiving Medicaid Benefits |        |            |
|--------------------------------------|--------|------------|
|                                      | Mercer | New Jersey |
| 1997                                 | 15,076 | 338,201    |
| 1998                                 | 14,661 | 333,739    |
| 1999                                 | 16,365 | 383,663    |
| Percent Change<br>1997 to 1999       | 9%     | 13%        |

Source: Office of Medicaid, Department of Human Services



| Women, Infant & Children (WIC) Receiving Benefits |        |            |
|---|--------|------------|
|   | Mercer | New Jersey |
| 1998  | 6,990  | 149,468    |
| 2000  | 6,983  | 140,150    |
| Percent Change<br>1998 to 2000                    | -0.1%  | -6.2%      |

Mercer County Distribution of Women, Infant, & Children  
Receiving WIC Benefits in 2000



Source: Office of WIC, Department of Human Services

| Income and Poverty   |                 |                   |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|
|  | <u>Mercer</u>   | <u>New Jersey</u> |
| Estimated Median Household Income 1997   | \$49,251        | \$47,903          |
| Per Capita Personal Income 1998  | \$37,551        | \$34,383          |
| Estimated Number of all Persons Below Poverty 1997<br><i>Percent</i>                         | 30,417<br>9.4%  | 749,198<br>9.3%   |
| Estimated Number of Persons Under 18 in Poverty 1997<br><i>Percent</i>                       | 11,973<br>14.8% | 302,459<br>14.8%  |
| Estimated Number of Related Children Ages 5—17 in Families in Poverty 1997<br><i>Percent</i> | 8,268<br>14.3%  | 206,090<br>14.2%  |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates Program, Released November 2000;  
PCP Income, New Jersey Department of Labor, November 2000

| Federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) |         |        |        |        |            |         |
|---|---------|--------|--------|--------|------------|---------|
|   | Trenton |        | Mercer |        | New Jersey |         |
|   | 1997    | 1998   | 1997   | 1998   | 1997       | 1998    |
| Number of EITC Claims                   | 11,695  | 15,570 | 17,308 | 17,196 | 455,475    | 446,071 |
| Percent of Total Federal Tax Filers     | 14      | 14     | 11     | 11     | 12         | 11      |

Source: 2000 Internal Revenue Service Zip Code Data  
February 2001, Statement of Income for New Jersey

**Trenton Public School District  
Percent of Students Enrolled in  
National School Lunch Program**

| <u>1997/98</u> | <u>1998/99</u> |
|----------------|----------------|
| 75%            | 78%            |

Source: Bureau of Child Nutrition, Department of Agriculture

**Mercer Street Friends Food Co-operative**

Number of Agencies in Trenton that Received Food from the Co- op  
1999/2000  
60

Number of Clients Benefiting In Mercer County 1999/2000

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Ages 0 to 17                                 | 4,915 |
| 18 years and over                            | 4,715 |
| Total  | 9,630 |
| Trenton Share of Total Mercer County Clients | 81.5% |

Source: Food Research and Action Center

**Mercer County Fair Market Rent in 2000**

Two-Bedroom Apartment .....\$862 a month

| <u>Annual Income Needed</u> | <u>Hourly Wage Needed</u> | <u>Percent of Persons Unable to Afford</u> | <u>Work Hours / Week Necessary @ \$5.15 / hr.</u> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--|---|
| \$34,480                    | \$16.58                   | 43%  | 129   |

Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition, Out of Reach Report, 2000

**The Self Sufficiency Standard For Mercer County 1999**

| Monthly Costs                 | Adult   | Adult + Infant | Adult + Preschooler | Adult + School age + Teenager | Adult + Infant + Preschooler + School age + Teenager | 2 Adults + Infant + Preschooler |
|-------------------------------|---------|----------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Housing                       | \$665   | \$810          | \$810               | \$810                         | \$1,097  | \$810                           |
| Child Care                    | 0       | 526            | 612                 | 490                           | 1,628  | 1,102                           |
| Food                          | 164     | 241            | 249                 | 429                           | 437  | 511                             |
| Transportation                | 157     | 167            | 167                 | 167                           | 167  | 318                             |
| Health Care                   | 89      | 182            | 160                 | 208                           | 224  | 237                             |
| Miscellaneous                 | 108     | 193            | 200                 | 210                           | 355  | 298                             |
| Taxes                         | 260     | 459            | 485                 | 462                           | 919  | 705                             |
| Earned Income Tax Credit      | 0       | 0              | 0                   | 0                             | 0  | 0                               |
| Child Care Tax Credit (-)     | 0       | (-40)          | (-40)               | (-40)                         | (-80)  | (-80)                           |
| Child Tax Credit(-)           | 0       | (-42)          | (-42)               | (-83)                         | (-125)   | (-83)                           |
| Monthly Self-Sufficiency Wage | \$1,442 | \$2,496        | \$2,602             | \$2,653                       | \$4,623  | \$3,817                         |
| Hourly Self-Sufficiency Wage  | \$8.20  | \$14.18        | \$14.78             | \$15.07                       | \$26.27  | \$10.84 (Per Adult)             |

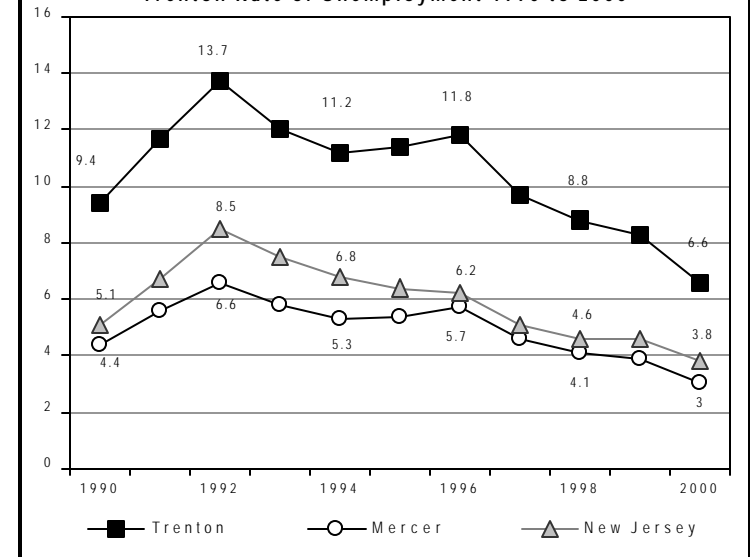
Note: EITC is zero for all columns because Monthly Self-Sufficiency Wage exceeded income eligibility to receive the credit in 1999.

Source: The Real Cost of Living: The Self-Sufficiency Standard for New Jersey, New Jersey Center for Economic Policy and Education

**Annual Average Labor Force Estimates**

|         |      | <u>Labor Force</u> | <u>Unemployed</u> |
|---------|------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Trenton | 1990 | 40,717             | 3,837             |
|         | 1995 | 40,668             | 4,633             |
|         | 2000 | 40,882             | 2,689             |
| Mercer  | 1990 | 170,717            | 7,583             |
|         | 1995 | 168,591            | 9,156             |
|         | 2000 | 174,296            | 5,313             |

**Trenton Rate of Unemployment 1990 to 2000**



Source: New Jersey Annual Unemployment Average, Unemployment Rate by County 1990-2000 ; and 1990, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 Annual Average Labor Force Estimates By Municipality NJ Department of Labor, Office of Research and Planning , Division of Labor Market and Demographic Research, Bureau of Labor Force, Local Unemployment Statistics as of February 27, 2001



| Number of Child Care Centers                      |                |               |
|---|----------------|---------------|
|   | <u>Trenton</u> | <u>Mercer</u> |
| Licensed Child Care Centers as of (as of 12/2000) | 82             | 218           |
| Registered Family Day Care as of (as of 12/2000)  | 160            | 261           |
| Abbott Contracted Child Care Centers              | 36             | —             |

Source: Mercer Child Care Connection

| Mercer County Funded Child Care Programs     |                        |                        |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|
| New Jersey Cares for Kids Program (NJCK)     |                        |                        |
|  | <u>FY 1999</u>         | <u>FY 2000</u>         |
| Children Served                              | 1,113                  | 2,082                  |
| Number of Children on NJCK Waiting List:     |                        |                        |
|  | <u>*As of May 1999</u> | <u>*As of May 2001</u> |
| For At-Risk Child Care Slots                 | 356                    | 403                    |
| For Child Care Development Block Grant Slots | 405                    | 140                    |

\* These numbers represent a single snapshot in time.

| Work First New Jersey Child Care Placements |                |                |
|---|----------------|----------------|
|   | <u>1998/99</u> | <u>1999/00</u> |
| Child Care Centers                          | 1,601          | 2,025          |
| Registered Family Child Care                | 411            | 600            |
| School-Age Care                             | 927            | 949            |
| Home Approval                               | 466            | 415            |
| Summer Camp                                 | 166            | 469            |
| Drop-in                                     | 9              | 0              |
| Extended Care                               | 503            | 553            |
| <b>Total Placements</b>                     | <b>4,083</b>   | <b>5,011</b>   |

Source: NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Youth and Family Services

The Child Care Connection Child Care Survey of Trenton Centers July 2000

N=43 Centers, 22 Abbott Centers; 21 Non-Abbott Centers.

| Teacher Salaries   |                     |          |          |
|--|---------------------|----------|----------|
|  | Range               | Mean     | Median   |
| Full-time teacher in Abbott classroom                      | \$14,560 - 31,000   | \$20,000 | \$18,500 |
| Full-time teacher in Non-Abbott classroom of Abbott center | \$13,250 - \$30,160 | \$20,450 | \$20,000 |
| Full-time teacher in Non Abbott center                     | \$12,500 - \$34,728 | \$20,578 | \$20,000 |

| Credentials of Child Care Directors<br>N=33 |          |            |           |
|---|----------|------------|-----------|
| Highest Credential                          | Abbott   | Non-Abbott | Total     |
| Associate                                   | 1        | 1          | 2         |
| BA/BS                                       | 8        | 13         | 21        |
| MA/MS                                       | 7        | 3          | 10        |
| <b>Total Certified/Ed</b>                   | <b>4</b> | <b>9</b>   | <b>13</b> |

| Teacher Credentials |                    |  |   |
|---------------------|--------------------|--|---|
| Credentials         | Number of Teachers |  |   |
|                     | Abbott Classroom   | Non Abbott Classroom of an Abbott Center | Non-Abbott Classroom of a Non-Abbott Center |
| Certified Teacher   | 24                 | 2  | 64  |
| Associate Degree    | 18                 | 4  | 10  |
| CDA/CCFP            | 36                 | 16                                       | 19  |
| Other (CEU's)       | 22                 | 14                                       | 60  |
| BS                  | —                  | —  | 1   |

| How has being in an Abbott District made an impact on your center?   |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved educational level of existing teachers</li> <li>• Recognition of need for preschool</li> <li>• Increased standards without sufficient funding</li> <li>• Dealing with NJ Department of Education and Trenton Board of Education difficult</li> <li>• Increased levels of service/enrollment</li> </ul> |

Note: Abbott districts are mandated by the NJ Supreme Court to offer quality early child education to all three and four year olds. Trenton is one of 30 Abbott school districts in the state. See glossary for more information.  
Source: Child Care Connection

| Child Abuse Substantiated Cases / Rate Per 1,000 |        |      |        |      |        |      |
|--|--------|------|--------|------|--------|------|
|  | 1996   |      | 1997   |      | 1998   |      |
|  | Number | Rate | Number | Rate | Number | Rate |
| Trenton  | 396    | 17   | 448    | 19   | 275    | 12   |
| Mercer   | 482    | 5    | 582    | 6    | 368    | 5    |
| New Jersey                                       | 10,537 | 6    | 11,065 | 7    | 9,851  | 5    |

Source: "Children at Risk 1995 and 1996", "Children at Risk 1997 and 1998"; Division of Youth and Family Services, Department of Human Services

| Family Problems<br>Number of Cases |        |        |        |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
|                                    | 1996   | 1997   | 1998   |
| Trenton*                           | 614    | 951    | 1,812  |
| Mercer                             | 991    | 1,194  | 2,550  |
| New Jersey                         | 17,902 | 20,427 | 34,866 |

\* Due to modification in data collection practices, comparisons can not be made between 1998 family problems and previous years. See Glossary for more detail.

Source: "Children at Risk 1995 and 1996", "Children at Risk 1997 and 1998", Division of Youth and Family Services, Department of Human Services; Division of Youth and Family Services, DHS

| Domestic Violence<br>Number of Reported Offenses |        |        |
|--|--------|--------|
|  | 1998   | 1999   |
| Trenton  | 1,679  | 1,361  |
| Mercer   | 3,424  | 3,172  |
| New Jersey                                       | 81,454 | 80,681 |

Source: *Crime in New Jersey, 1999 Uniform Crime Report*, New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety



**Profile of a Trenton Grandmother**

When my daughter was unable to properly care for her three children because of her drug problem, I had to step in and care for them. My first concern was for their safety.

My ten-year old granddaughter was born drug addicted and I couldn't give her the proper care. She is now living at Anchor House.

When my husband died seven months ago, after many years of illness, I was faced with financial insecurity. Two of my grandchildren receive Social Security Income of \$187 a month and therefore were not eligible to receive welfare benefits.

I won't ask for help from welfare because the system may think I'm not able to care for them and place them in foster care or put them up for adoption. I keep my grandchildren with me because I love them—they're my family.

—A Trenton Grandmother



| Grandparents Raising Children In Mercer County<br>Grandparent Survey 1998<br>n=41 Grandparents |     |
|--|-----|
| Percent of Grandparents with Custody of Grandchildren  | 85% |
| Percent with Grandchildren Under 10 Years Old  | 65% |
| Percent with Own Children at Home  | 33% |
| Percent Still Employed   | 50% |
| Percent Receive Social Security and/or Pension   | 50% |
| Percent Receive a Welfare Reimbursement  | 31% |
| <u>Who Helps Care for children</u>   |     |
| No other help  | 30% |
| Spouse   | 25% |
| Another son or daughter  | 25% |

Source: *Grandparents Raising Children in Mercer County: A Report From a Coalition*, Mercer County Office of Aging, March 1998

Little current data was found on Kinship care for Mercer County. However, according to 1990 census, 6,805 grandchildren were living in family households and 11,969 were living in "other relatives" family households. This does not delineate between families where the birth parent is part of the household and those that include only the children and another relative.

According to the Mercer County Family Court, from 1993 to 1998 more than 40% of filings for child support and custody were in cases where grandparents were raising grandchildren. In 1997, there were a total of 7,861 complaints filed for child support and custody, which would indicate that over 3,100 (40%) of these complaints were on behalf of grandparents.

Source: Mercer County Office on Aging

| Trenton Homeless Survey 1999  |                  |                       |
|---|------------------|-----------------------|
| Homeless Child Demographics   | Trenton<br>N=191 | Nationwide<br>N=4,141 |
| Sex: Female   | 48%              | 49%                   |
| Male  | 52%              | 52%                   |
| Age: Less than five   | 43%              | 41%                   |
| 5-17 years  | 57%              | 59%                   |
| Race/Ethnicity:   |                  |                       |
| African American  | 80%              | 63%                   |
| Asian   | 0                | 1%                    |
| Latino  | 6%               | 23%                   |
| Native American   | 0                | 2%                    |
| White   | 5%               | 16%                   |
| Number of times child was homeless: Once  | 77%              | 73%                   |
| Twice or More   | 23%              | 27%                   |
| Percent of children who have Asthma   | 23%              | 20%                   |
| Percent of children who have witnessed Domestic Violence                            | 42%              | 40%                   |
| Percent of children who have witnessed Community Violence                           | 10%              | 17%                   |
| Percent of children ages 5-17 currently enrolled in school                          | 89%              | 91%                   |
| Percent of children who have changed schools in the last year                       | 22%              | 55%                   |
| Percent of children who have missed more than four weeks of school in the last year | 12%              | 12%                   |

| City of Trenton Housing Improvements<br>Number of new and rehabilitated housing units Since 1991 |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Single Family Homes  | 350                 |
| Houses and Apartments  | 600                 |
| Special Needs  | 200                 |
| <b>Total</b>   | Approximately 1,200 |

Source: Trenton Department of Housing and Development

Trenton Homeless Survey 1999 (continued)

| Homeless Parent Demographics   | Trenton<br>N=80 | Nationwide<br>N=1,904 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Sex: Female  | 95%             | 95%                   |
| Male   | 5%              | 6%                    |
| Percent of homeless parents who are single                                       | 93%             | 80%                   |
| Percent of homeless parents who have completed less than a high school education | 43%             | 41%                   |
| Reason parent left last residence:   |                 |                       |
| Could not pay rent/Evicted   | 40%             | 30%                   |
| Overcrowded/Disagreement   | 26%             | 25%                   |
| Domestic Violence  | 5%              | 12%                   |
| Substandard Housing  | 3%              | 4%                    |
| Transferred from another shelter   | 5%              | 15%                   |
| Percent of homeless parents with history of substance abuse                      | 40%             | 46%                   |
| Percent of parents currently receiving:  |                 |                       |
| TANF   | 65%             | 57%                   |
| Food Stamps  | 63%             | 67%                   |
| Medicaid   | 60%             | 53%                   |

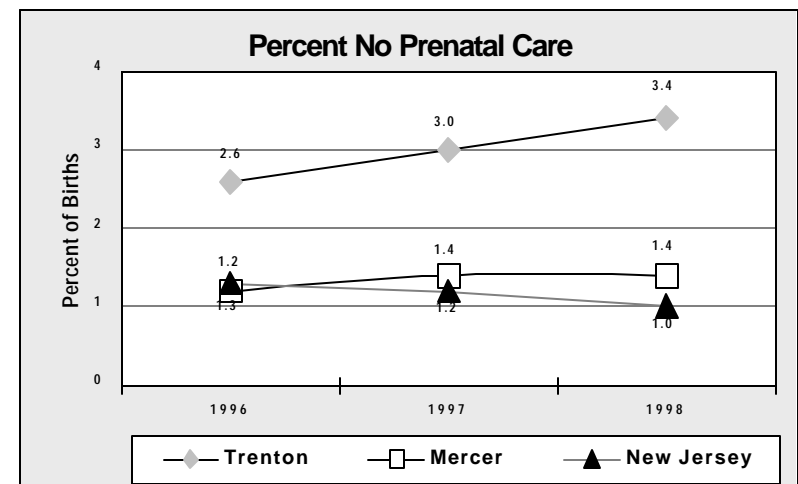
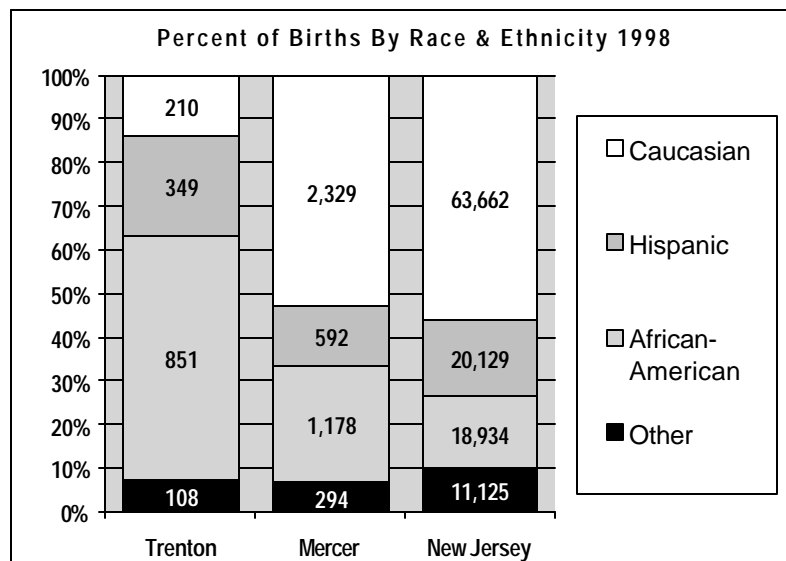
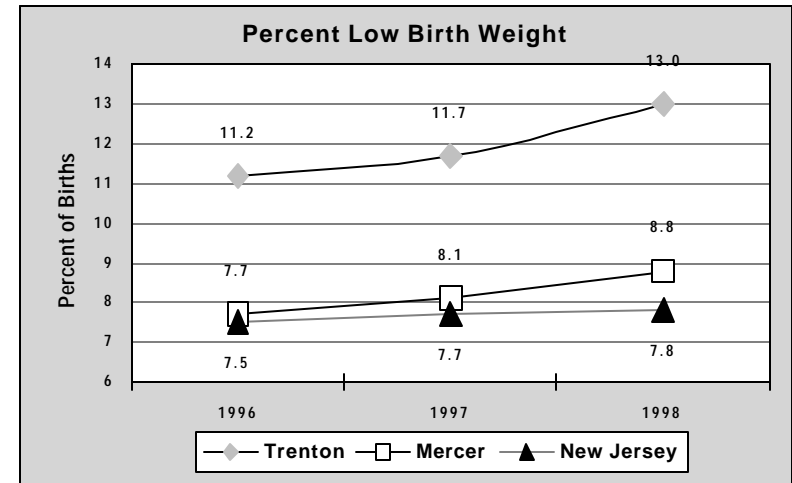
Source: *Homelessness in America: A Children's story Part One*, Homes for the Homeless and The Institute for Children and Poverty, 1999

Trenton New Home Construction

|            | <u>1997</u> | <u>1998</u> | <u>1999</u> |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| North Ward | 16          | 26          | 104         |
| East Ward  | 28          | 23          | 26          |
| West Ward  | 0           | 17          | 58          |
| South Ward | 55          | 0           | 7           |

Source: Trenton Department of Housing and Development

|            |                              | 1996    | 1997    | 1998    | Percent Change 1996 to 1998 |
|------------|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------------------|
| Trenton    | Number of Births             | 1,521   | 1,527   | 1,442   | -5.2%                       |
|            | Number with Low Birth Weight | 171     | 178     | 187     | 9.3                         |
|            | Number with No Prenatal Care | 40      | 47      | 50      | 25.0                        |
| Mercer     | Number of Births             | 4,492   | 4,506   | 4,393   | -2.2                        |
|            | Number with Low Birth Weight | 347     | 367     | 388     | 11.8                        |
|            | Number with No Prenatal Care | 52      | 62      | 61      | 17.3                        |
| New Jersey | Number of Births             | 114,335 | 113,332 | 113,850 | -0.4                        |
|            | Number with Low Birth Weight | 8,556   | 8,687   | 8,862   | 3.6                         |
|            | Number with No Prenatal Care | 1,451   | 1,376   | 1,116   | -23.1                       |



Source: Center for Health Statistics, Department of Health and Senior Services

| Mothers Engaged in Risk Behaviors During Pregnancy<br>Percent of Mothers |            |       |       |
|--|------------|-------|-------|
| Risk Behavior  |            | 1997  | 1998  |
| Smoking  | Mercer     | 14.1% | 13.0% |
|  | New Jersey | 12.4  | 11.5  |
| Drinking   | Mercer     | 2.9   | 3.1   |
|  | New Jersey | 2.3   | 2.1   |
| Drug Use   | Mercer     | 3.4   | 3.1   |
|  | New Jersey | 2.4   | 2.2   |

Mothers Engaged in Risk Behaviors  
During Pregnancy in 1998



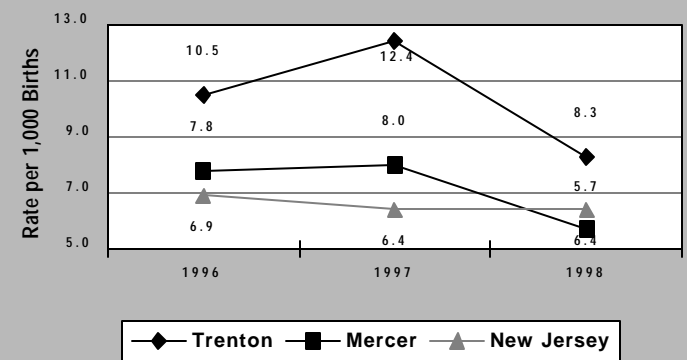
Note: Use of these substances is self reported, therefore an undercount may be possible.  
Source: Center for Health Statistics, Department of Health and Senior Services



Infant Mortality  
Number of Deaths Under Age 1

|            | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 |
|------------|------|------|------|
| Trenton    | 16   | 19   | 12   |
| Mercer     | 35   | 36   | 25   |
| New Jersey | 792  | 727  | 728  |

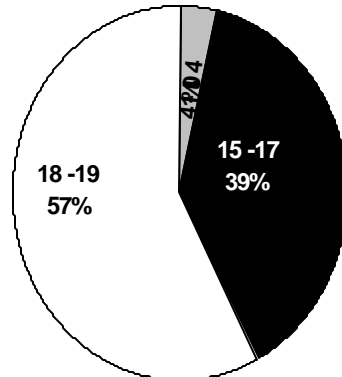
Infant Mortality Rate



Note: Infant mortalities are deaths occurring during the first year of a child's life.  
Source: Center for Health Statistics, Department of Health and Senior Services

| Births to Teens |            |       |       |       |                             |
|-----------------|------------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------------------|
|                 |            | 1996  | 1997  | 1998  | Percent Change 1996 to 1998 |
| Trenton         | Ages 15—19 | 299   | 290   | 329   | 10%                         |
| Mercer          | Ages 15—19 | 396   | 386   | 440   | 7.3%                        |
| New Jersey      | Ages 15—19 | 8,598 | 8,624 | 8,661 | 0.7%                        |

1998 Age Distributions of Women Under 20 Who Gave Birth in Trenton



Statewide over 44% of Teens 18 – 19 that gave birth in 1998 had at least one previous pregnancy and 25% had at least one previous birth still living.

Source: Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services

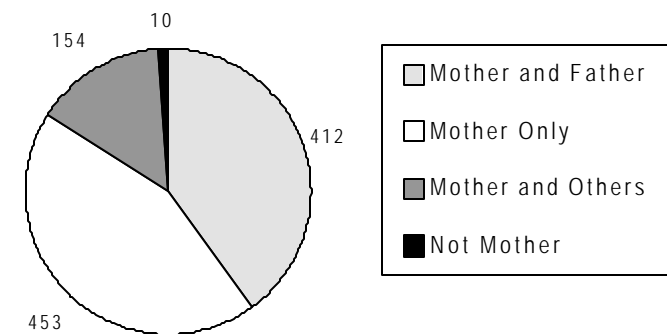
| Births to Single Mothers |  |        |        |        |                             |
|--------------------------|--|--------|--------|--------|-----------------------------|
|                          |  | 1996   | 1997   | 1998   | Percent Change 1996 to 1998 |
| Trenton                  |  | 992    | 990    | 1,029  | 3.7%                        |
| Mercer                   |  | 1,419  | 1,450  | 1,517  | 6.9%                        |
| New Jersey               |  | 31,273 | 31,345 | 31,887 | 2.0%                        |

Source: Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services

Fatherhood and Fragile Families



Estimated Living Arrangements of Infants Born to Single Mothers in Trenton



Total Number of Infants Living Without the Biological Father

607

Estimates are based on the average of Newark and Philadelphia living arrangement data from the 2000 "Fragile Families Survey" and 1998 Births to Single Mothers in Trenton.

Estimated Living Arrangements of Infants Born to Single Mothers = Column B X Total Number of Infants Born to Single Mothers in 1998

| Column A<br>Living Arrangement | Column B<br>Percent of Infants<br>(Average of Newark & Philadelphia) |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Mother and Father              | 40   |
| Mother Only                    | 45   |
| Mothers and Others             | 15   |
| Not Mother                     | 1  |

**Total Pediatric Asthma Hospital Admissions 1998**

| By Age       |           |            |            |            |              |              |
|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
|              | Trenton   |            | Mercer     |            | New Jersey   |              |
|              | 1998      | 1999       | 1998       | 1999       | 1998         | 1999         |
| Under 1*     | 10        | 23         | 14         | 26         | 667          | 804          |
| 1 to 4       | 45        | 54         | 61         | 72         | 2,072        | 2,595        |
| 5 to 9       | 15        | 32         | 19         | 41         | 1,123        | 1,393        |
| 10 to 14     | 17        | 17         | 23         | 19         | 720          | 877          |
| 15 to 19     | 9         | 15         | 14         | 18         | 409          | 383          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>96</b> | <b>141</b> | <b>131</b> | <b>176</b> | <b>4,991</b> | <b>6,052</b> |

| By Race          |           |            |            |            |              |              |
|------------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
|                  | Trenton   |            | Mercer     |            | New Jersey   |              |
|                  | 1998      | 1999       | 1998       | 1999       | 1998         | 1999         |
| African American | 55        | 61         | 67         | 72         | 2,044        | 2,463        |
| Caucasian        | 30        | 16         | 53         | 29         | 2,386        | 2,756        |
| Native American  | 7         | 3          | 7          | 3          | 48           | 52           |
| Other            | 4         | 61         | 4          | 72         | 513          | 403          |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>96</b> | <b>141</b> | <b>131</b> | <b>176</b> | <b>4,991</b> | <b>6,052</b> |

**Asthma Hospital Admissions Through the Emergency Room**

|            | Admissions Through ER |       | Percent of Asthma Hospital Admissions |       |
|------------|-----------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|-------|
|            | 1998                  | 1999  | 1998                                  | 1999  |
| Trenton    | 60                    | 81    | 62.5%                                 | 57.4% |
| Mercer     | 78                    | 98    | 59.5                                  | 55.7  |
| New Jersey | 3,026                 | 3,810 | 60.6                                  | 63.0  |

Source: NJ Department of Health and Senior Services

**Millhill Survey of Trenton Public School Nurses 2000**

The top four major health issues facing students during the school year 1999/2000 were:

**By Frequency**

1. Vision
2. Dental Health
3. Asthma
4. Earaches/Hearing Problems

100% of respondents felt that School-Based Health Clinics are an appropriate venue for healthcare delivery to children.

Note: In June, 2000, Millhill surveyed 34 Public School Nurses and four Early Childhood Nurses. Seventeen responses were received.

**Did you know that...**



- Trenton makes up 76.9% of Mercer County's Pediatric Asthma Admissions through the Emergency Room

- Trenton makes up 73.2% of Mercer

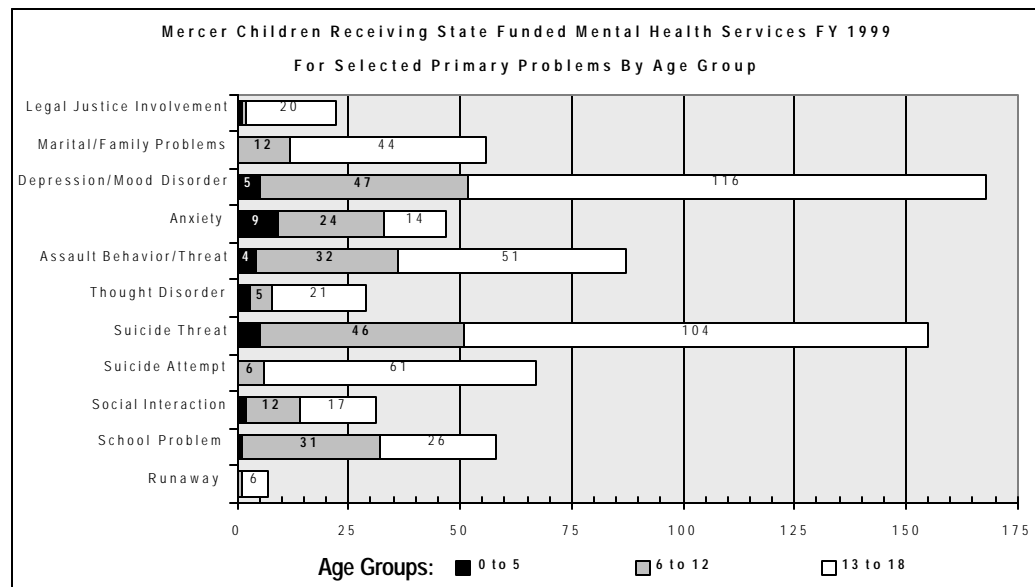
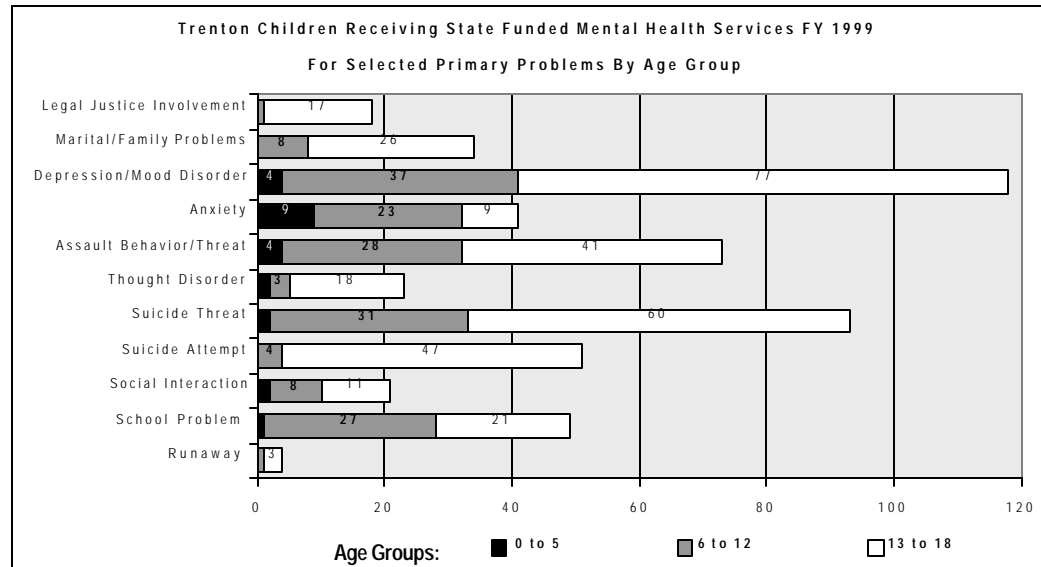
County's total Pediatric Asthma Admissions

| Children Served by State Funded Mental Health Programs<br>All Children 18 and Under By Primary Presenting Problem |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Primary Presenting Problem  | Trenton    |            |            |            | Mercer     |            |            |            |
|   | FY 1996    | FY 1997    | FY 1998    | FY 1999    | FY 1996    | FY 1997    | FY 1998    | FY 1999    |
| Runaway   | 6          | 6          | 5          | 4          | 7          | 9          | 6          | 7          |
| School Problem  | 68         | 59         | 69         | 49         | 78         | 65         | 76         | 58         |
| Sexual Abuse/Rape   | 6          | 2          | 7          | 5          | 7          | 3          | 7          | 7          |
| Social Interaction  | 27         | 25         | 51         | 21         | 31         | 32         | 65         | 31         |
| Suicide Attempt   | 62         | 61         | 71         | 51         | 84         | 89         | 115        | 67         |
| Suicide Threat  | 92         | 85         | 94         | 93         | 131        | 130        | 163        | 155        |
| Thought Disorder  | 20         | 14         | 32         | 23         | 21         | 16         | 37         | 29         |
| Drug /Alcohol Abuse   | 14         | 17         | 19         | 30         | 18         | 19         | 22         | 36         |
| Anxiety   | 24         | 20         | 30         | 41         | 28         | 27         | 35         | 47         |
| Assault Behavior/Threat   | 46         | 58         | 82         | 73         | 61         | 69         | 105        | 87         |
| Bizarre Behavior  | 15         | 37         | 30         | 27         | 21         | 50         | 37         | 35         |
| Daily Living Problem  | 33         | 15         | 7          | 12         | 35         | 18         | 10         | 16         |
| Depression/Mood Disorder  | 114        | 88         | 120        | 118        | 125        | 116        | 162        | 168        |
| Homicide Behavior/ Threat   | 13         | 11         | 11         | 16         | 19         | 13         | 15         | 24         |
| Marital/Family Problems   | 35         | 42         | 30         | 34         | 43         | 53         | 42         | 56         |
| Legal Justice Involvement   | 42         | 21         | 14         | 19         | 44         | 23         | 16         | 22         |
| Other   | 52         | 77         | 61         | 71         | 64         | 98         | 77         | 100        |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>669</b> | <b>638</b> | <b>733</b> | <b>687</b> | <b>817</b> | <b>830</b> | <b>990</b> | <b>945</b> |

Source: Division of Mental Health Services, Department of Human Services

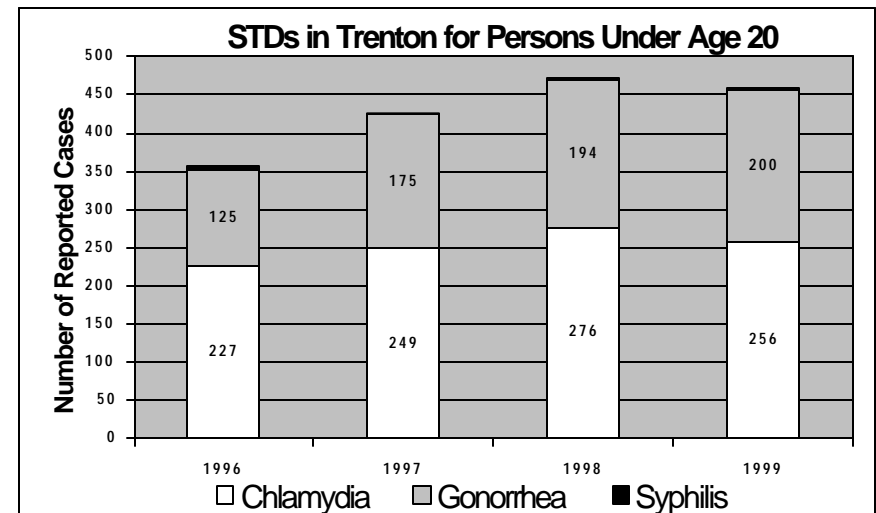






Source: Division of Mental Health Services, Department of Human Services

| Number of Reported Sexually Transmitted Cases<br>Persons Under 20 Years of Age |            |       |       |       |       |
|--|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|  |            | 1996  | 1997  | 1998  | 1999  |
| Chlamydia  | Trenton    | 227   | 249   | 276   | 256   |
|  | Mercer     | 285   | 286   | 345   | 298   |
|  | New Jersey | 5,266 | 5,532 | 5,208 | 5,178 |
| Gonorrhea  | Trenton    | 125   | 175   | 194   | 200   |
|  | Mercer     | 144   | 189   | 214   | 221   |
|  | New Jersey | 1,490 | 2,921 | 2,487 | 2,425 |
| Syphilis   | Trenton    | 6     | 2     | 3     | 3     |
|  | Mercer     | 6     | 2     | 4     | 3     |
|  | New Jersey | 57    | 180   | 153   | 98    |



| Total STDs Persons Under Age 20 |       |       |       |       |
|---------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                 | 1996  | 1997  | 1998  | 1999  |
| Trenton                         | 358   | 426   | 473   | 459   |
| Mercer                          | 435   | 477   | 563   | 522   |
| New Jersey                      | 6,813 | 8,633 | 7,848 | 7,701 |

Source: STD Prevention and Control Program, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services

| New Jersey HIV/AIDS Surveillance Data<br>Children Living with HIV Disease by Current Age at end of Year |          |      |      |      |      |      |
|---|----------|------|------|------|------|------|
|   | Ages     | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 |
| Trenton   | 5 to 12  | 5    | 7    | 9    | 10   | 12   |
|   | 13 to 19 | <5   | <5   | <5   | 6    | 7    |
| Mercer  | 5 to 12  | 9    | 11   | 13   | 14   | 15   |
|   | 13 to 19 | 5    | 5    | <5   | 6    | 8    |
| New Jersey  | 5 to 12  | 316  | 353  | 373  | 392  | 398  |
|   | 13 to 19 | 155  | 170  | 170  | 177  | 199  |

Note: These statistics are gathered by matching the state HIV/AIDS Reporting System (HARS) with the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services Death Certificates Registry on a monthly basis, and recording new deaths in the HARS. See glossary for complete explanation.

Source: New Jersey Division of Aids Control, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services

**Did you know that...**

Lead screening is now mandatory for all children living in NJ. All children should be screened at ages one and two. High risk children should be screened more frequently.

Children are considered a high risk for lead poisoning when the following risk factors are present

- living in a house built before 1960 that has peeling or chipping paint
- living in a house built before 1960 that has recent, ongoing or planned renovation.
- living with an adult whose job or hobby involves exposure to lead.
- has an elevated blood lead level (10ud/dL or higher).

**Children and Lead Poisoning**

**Number of new lead cases in Trenton**  
(blood lead content>20ug/dL)

|                   |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <u>1998</u><br>38 | <u>1999</u><br>11 | <u>2000</u><br>11 |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|

Source: Trenton Department of Health

**Retrospective Immunization Audit\***

**Percent of children immunized in Trenton**

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| <u>1995</u><br>29% | <u>2000</u><br>53% |
|--------------------|--------------------|

\*A standardized assessment of the immunization records of all first grade children (six-years old) in the city to determine if they were up to date with required immunizations by age two (i.e. 24 months old.).

Source: Trenton Department of Health

**Trenton Public Schools Student Enrollment**

|                    | <u>1999/00</u> | <u>1998/99</u> | <u>1997/98</u> | <u>1996/97</u> |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>K-5</b>         | 6,750          | 5,940          | 6,495          | 6,687          |
| <b>Middle</b>      | 2,169          | 2,021          | 2,132          | 2,385          |
| <b>High School</b> | 2,957          | 2,128          | 2,128          | 2,357          |

**Trenton Public Schools Attendance Rate**

|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| <b>1999/2000</b> | 91.7% |
| <b>1998/1999</b> | 90.7% |
| <b>1997/1998</b> | 90.6% |

**Drop-Out Rates (Grades 9-12)**

|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| <b>1999/2000</b> | 6%    |
| <b>1998/1999</b> | 13.2% |
| <b>1997/1998</b> | 16.0% |

Note: Drop-out Rates include any student in grades 9 to 12 that withdrew during that given school year.

Source: New Jersey Report Card 2000, Trenton Board of Education

**Trenton Public School District Graduation Rates**

| <u>1996/97</u> | <u>1997/98</u> | <u>1998/99</u> |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 29.5%          | 32.0%          | 31.1%          |

Note: This data indicates the average graduation rates for Trenton High School students. Calculation for rates is as follows: number of graduates for a given year divided by the number of ninth grade students enrolled as of October 15th, four years earlier.  
Source: Center for Government Services, Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University.

**Charter Schools in Trenton  
1999/2000**

| <u># of Schools</u> | <u># of Enrollees</u> |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 10                  | 2,377                 |

National data shows charter schools have, on average, a racial composition roughly similar to statewide averages or they have a higher proportion of students of color.

Source: U.S. Department of Education

**Trenton Abbott District Enrollment  
As of October 2000**

|                              |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Three year olds</b>       | 502        |
| <b>Four Year olds</b>        | 494        |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>996</b> |
| <b>Potential Total Slots</b> | 1,423      |

Source: Mercer Child Care Connection

Note: Abbott vs. Burke was a court case presented to the NJ Supreme Court regarding quality education for all children. As a part of the March 2000, Supreme Court decision under Abbott VI, the courts mandated that quality early child education must be offered to all three and four year old children residing in an Abbott District. Trenton is one of 30 Abbott School Districts in the state.

| Elementary School Proficiency Assessment (ESPA)<br>Percent of Students that Scored Partially Proficient |                  |         |         |
|---|------------------|---------|---------|
| ESPA Section  |                  | 1998/99 | 1999/00 |
| Language Arts Literacy  | Trenton District | 77.4    | 76.2    |
|   | New Jersey       | 37.2    | 38.9    |
| Mathematics   | Trenton District | 76.5    | 70.9    |
|   | New Jersey       | 34.2    | 28.6    |
| Science   | Trenton District | 38.2    | 34.9    |
|   | New Jersey       | 10.3    | 10.4    |

| Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment (GEPA)<br>Percent of Students that Scored Partially Proficient |                  |         |         |
|---|------------------|---------|---------|
| GEPA Section  |                  | 1998/99 | 1999/00 |
| Language Arts   | Trenton District | 64.2    | 69.0    |
|   | New Jersey       | 14.6    | 16.3    |
| Mathematics   | Trenton District | 79.0    | 84.0    |
|   | New Jersey       | 31.5    | 32.6    |
| Science   | Trenton District | n/a     | 70.8    |
|   | New Jersey       | n/a     | 19.9    |

NOTE: Not all students are required to take the ESPA or GEPA to proceed to the next grade level. The scores above are for general education students and do not include special education students or limited English proficient students. See Glossary for further details.

| High School Proficiency Test (HSPT)<br>Percent of Students Passed |                  |         |         |         |         |
|---|------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| HSPT Section  |                  | 1996/97 | 1997/98 | 1998/99 | 1999/00 |
| All Sections  | Trenton District | 50.3    | 44.6    | 38.2    | 25.3    |
|   | New Jersey       | 88.5    | 86.7    | 85.1    | 74.7    |
| Reading   | Trenton District | 65.2    | 62.8    | 59.3    | 43.6    |
|   | New Jersey       | 92.5    | 93.0    | 89.4    | 84.1    |
| Writing   | Trenton District | 63.1    | 53.9    | 53.8    | 44.6    |
|   | New Jersey       | 94.1    | 90.9    | 92.0    | 88.4    |
| Math  | Trenton District | 69.3    | 64.9    | 65.1    | 50.7    |
|   | New Jersey       | 94.0    | 93.0    | 93.1    | 85.8    |

NOTE: Percents reflect those Grade 11 students who passed during test administrations in October and April of their junior year.

| Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT) |                  |         |         |         |         |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                   |                  | 1996/97 | 1997/98 | 1998/99 | 1999/00 |
| Percent of Students Taking Test   | Trenton District | 43      | 49      | 51      | 38      |
|                                   | New Jersey       | 74      | 75      | 78      | 77      |
| Average Math Score                | Trenton District | 405     | 393     | 390     | 394     |
|                                   | New Jersey       | 511     | 511     | 513     | 516     |
| Average Verbal Score              | Trenton District | 394     | 395     | 382     | 394     |
|                                   | New Jersey       | 495     | 495     | 496     | 496     |

Source: New Jersey School Report Card 2000, New Jersey Department of Education



| Trenton Public Schools Vandalism Reports |      |      |      |
|--|------|------|------|
|  | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 |
| Vandalism                                | 143  | 102  | 90   |
| Violence                                 | 304  | 247  | 231  |
| Weapons                                  | 57   | 80   | 56   |
| Substance Abuse                          | 14   | 8    | 14   |
| <b>Number of Students Involved</b>       | 429  | 437  | 391  |

Source: Trenton Public Schools

| Trenton Public Schools Suspensions |           |               |
|------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
|                                    | In-School | Out-of-School |
| <b>1999/2000</b>                   | 1,795     | 3,165         |
| <b>1998/1999</b>                   | 5,154     | 3,708         |
| <b>1997/1998</b>                   | 6,607     | 5,132         |

Source: Trenton Public Schools

| Twilight Program Enrollment <sup>1</sup> |       |
|--|-------|
| 1999/2000<br>(school year established)   | 450   |
| 2000/2001                                | 1,800 |

<sup>1</sup>The Twilight Program in Trenton is an alternative educational experience for residents in need of a high school diploma through the implementation of a non-traditional schedule configuration.

This is not a General Equivalency Diploma (GED) Program. An official high school diploma will be awarded upon successful completion of all requirements. After its first year of operation, this program presented 287 individuals with their high school diplomas.

Source: Trenton Board of Education

**Mercer County Area Male Student Summit Survey  
November 2000**

**Most frequently identified issues that young men worry about were:**

- Finding a job
- Graduating
- What to do over the summer
- Problems with friends

Note: On November 30, 2000, more than 600 young men from the Mercer County area attended a Male Summit sponsored by Millhill Child and Family Development Corp. Evaluations were received from 212 young men.

| Percent of District Students with Disabilities Ages 6 to 21<br>By Classification |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Note: Categories with at least 0.1% shown  |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Classification   | 12/1/97     |             |             | 12/1/98     |             |             | 12/1/99     |             |             |
|  | Trenton     | Mercer      | NJ          | Trenton     | Mercer      | NJ          | Trenton     | Mercer      | NJ          |
| Multiple Disabilities  | 7.3%        | 3.8%        | 1.2%        | 7.3%        | 3.9%        | 1.2%        | 7.8%        | 4.0%        | 1.3%        |
| Specific Learning Disabilities   | 5.1         | 6.6         | 6.2         | 5.1         | 6.7         | 6.6         | 4.8         | 6.7         | 7.2         |
| Speech   | 4.7         | 4.0         | 3.1         | 2.4         | 3.0         | 2.6         | 1.8         | 2.6         | 2.3         |
| Preschool Disabled   | 1.3         | 0.8         | 0.6         | 1.5         | 1.3         | 1.1         | 1.5         | 1.3         | 1.1         |
| Traumatic Brain Injury   | 1.5         | 0.8         | 2.0         | 1.4         | 0.8         | 1.6         | 0.9         | 0.4         | 0.9         |
| Language Impaired  | 1.1         | 0.7         | 0.4         | 1.1         | 0.7         | 0.4         | 0.7         | 0.6         | 0.5         |
| Emotionally Disturbed  | 1.1         | 0.8         | 1.0         | 1.0         | 0.8         | 1.0         | 0.6         | 0.7         | 1.0         |
| Mental Retardation   | 0.5         | 0.3         | 0.4         | 0.4         | 0.2         | 0.4         | 0.4         | 0.2         | 0.4         |
| All Other Classifications  | 0.1         | 0.2         | 0.3         | 0.1         | 0.3         | 0.3         | 0.1         | 0.4         | 0.6         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>22.7</b> | <b>18.2</b> | <b>15.2</b> | <b>20.3</b> | <b>16.4</b> | <b>15.3</b> | <b>18.6</b> | <b>17.1</b> | <b>15.3</b> |

Note: The classification "Multiple Disabilities" means the presence of two or more educationally disabling conditions that interact in such a manner that programs designed for evident educational disabilities shall be documented. Eligibility for speech-language services shall not be one of the disabling conditions that forms the basis for the classification in this analysis. Most students who cannot read have undiagnosed learning disabilities.

Source: NJ State Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs

| Trenton Public Library Utilization |          |         |         |         |
|------------------------------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                    |          | 1997    | 1998    | 1999    |
| Number of Items Borrowed           | Adult    | 91,900  | 83,553  | 92,127  |
|                                    | Children | 87,375  | 94,708  | 95,627  |
|                                    | TOTAL    | 179,275 | 178,261 | 187,754 |
| Number of People Visiting          |          | 198,351 | 291,507 | 274,090 |
| Number of Reference Inquiries      |          | 64,378  | 94,026  | 92,946  |

Source: Trenton Public Library

- Trenton Public Library System:**
1. Main Location  
120 Academy Street  
Trenton, NJ 08608
  2. Cadwalder Branch
  3. East Trenton Branch
  4. Briggs Branch
  5. Skelton Branch

Source: Trenton Public Library

- Mercer County Public Library System**
1. Ewing Branch
  2. Hickory Corner Branch
  3. Hightstown Memorial Library
  4. Hollowbrook Community Center
  5. Hopewell Township Branch
  6. Lawrence Headquarters
  7. Twin Rivers Branch
  8. Washington Branch
  9. West Windsor Branch

Source: Mercer County Library System





Juvenile Arrests

| PART I CRIMES      |            |             |            |              |
|--------------------|------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
|                    | 1996       |             | 1997       |              |
|                    | Trenton    | Mercer      | Trenton    | Mercer       |
| Murder             | 0          | 1           | 0          | 3            |
| Manslaughter       | 0          | 0           | 0          | 1            |
| Rape               | 8          | 10          | 2          | 4            |
| Robbery            | 40         | 68          | 67         | 121          |
| Aggravated Assault | 67         | 106         | 78         | 121          |
| Burglary           | 34         | 136         | 49         | 111          |
| Theft              | 88         | 685         | 71         | 638          |
| MV Theft           | 167        | 246         | 142        | 180          |
| Arson              | 2          | 5           | 7          | 12           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>406</b> | <b>1257</b> | <b>416</b> | <b>1,191</b> |

Source: Trenton Police Uniform Crime Report, Mercer County Youth Services Plan for January 2000-December 2001

Note: Part I, also known as Crime Index offenses known to law enforcement, those cleared by arrest or exceptional means; and the age, sex, and race of persons arrested. These are indictable offenses and are punishable with at least one year or more incarceration. The perpetrator must go in front of a Grand Jury in the County Superior Court.

| PART II CRIMES        |              |              |              |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                       | 1996         |              | 1997         |              |
|                       | Trenton      | Mercer       | Trenton      | Mercer       |
| Simple Assault        | 256          | 463          | 195          | 379          |
| Forgery               | 0            | 2            | 0            | 8            |
| Fraud                 | 0            | 10           | 0            | 10           |
| Stolen Property       | 12           | 89           | 10           | 57           |
| Criminal Mischief     | 74           | 250          | 86           | 253          |
| Weapons Offenses      | 56           | 86           | 48           | 70           |
| Sex Offenses          | 30           | 43           | 24           | 38           |
| Drug Abuse Violations | 343          | 546          | 372          | 569          |
| Gambling              | 0            | 2            | 0            | 0            |
| Offenses/Family/Child | 0            | 1            | 0            | 0            |
| Drunk Driving         | 0            | 8            | 1            | 7            |
| Liquor Laws           | 6            | 68           | 6            | 77           |
| Disorderly Conduct    | 532          | 827          | 417          | 785          |
| Curfew                | 57           | 57           | 30           | 38           |
| Runaways              | 295          | 557          | 423          | 610          |
| All Other Offenses    | 33           | 248          | 20           | 197          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>          | <b>1,688</b> | <b>3,257</b> | <b>1,632</b> | <b>3,098</b> |

**Number of Brownfield Sites Identified in Trenton**

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| <u>1996</u><br>20 | <u>1999</u><br>18 |
|-------------------|-------------------|

**Status of Sites as of 1999**

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Cleaned and redevelopment             | 2 |
| Cleaned and redevelopment is underway | 6 |
| Needed no further action              | 1 |
| Still under investigation             | 1 |

**Note:** Brownfields are former industrial sites, now abandoned or seriously underutilized.

**Former Brownfields**

|                                  |                                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b><u>Formerly Known as:</u></b> | <b><u>Currently Known as:</u></b> |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

|                    |                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Cooper Iron Works  | Kat Man Du                 |
| Roebing Machine    | Invention Factory          |
| Champale Warehouse | ARM National Foods         |
| Circle F Factory   | Senior Citizen Housing     |
| Thropp Bros.       | Open Public Space          |
| Blakeley Laundry   | New Homes                  |
| Reservoir Street   | New Homes                  |
| Roebing Iron Works | Sovereign Bank Arena       |
| Crane Pottery      | Route 1 Industrial Complex |

Source: Trenton Department of Planning and Urban Development

**Number of Vacant Lots Converted into Community Gardens or Parks**

As of 2000  
30

Source: Isles, Inc.

**Environmental Enrichment Activities  
Trenton Resident Participation in 2000**

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| Number of Children participated in Isles Environmental Education Field Trips | 3,100         |
| Number of Family Walks on Evenings and Saturdays                             | 28            |
| Number of Family Members Participated  | More than 450 |
| Number of Teachers Participated in Training Workshops                        | 12            |
| Number of Students Participated in Special Eyes on the Environment           | 20            |

Source: Isles, Inc.

## MERCER COUNTY MUNICIPALITY DEMOGRAPHICS

| Municipality        | Area Perspective—<br># of Square Mile | <sup>1</sup> 1990 Population Total | 2000 Population Total | Density: Persons Per<br>Square Mile<br>2000 | Children<br>Under Age 18<br>in 2000 | % of Children Under<br>Age 18<br>in 2000 | % of Families Below<br>Poverty Level 1990 |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| East Windsor Twp.   | 15.6                                  | 22,353                             | 24,919                | 1,593                                       | n/a                                 | n/a                                      | 2.2%                                      |
| Ewing               | 15.1                                  | 34,185                             | 35,707                | 2,329                                       | 6,444                               | 18%                                      | 1.6                                       |
| Hamilton            | 39.4                                  | 86,553                             | 87,109                | 2,208                                       | n/a                                 | n/a                                      | 2.3                                       |
| Hightstown          | 1.2                                   | 5,126                              | 5,216                 | 4,251                                       | 1,174                               | 23                                       | 2.1                                       |
| Hopewell Boro.      | 0.8                                   | 1,968                              | 2,035                 | 2,962                                       | 532                                 | 26                                       | 1.9                                       |
| Hopewell Twp.       | 58                                    | 11,590                             | 16,105                | 277   | n/a                                 | n/a                                      | 1.2                                       |
| Lawrence Twp.       | 21.9                                  | 25,787                             | 29,159                | 1,317                                       | n/a                                 | n/a                                      | 0.9                                       |
| Pennington          | 1.0                                   | 2,537                              | 2,696                 | 2,800                                       | 774                                 | 29                                       | 0.8                                       |
| Princeton Boro.     | 1.8                                   | 12,016                             | 14,203                | 7,686                                       | 1,429                               | 10                                       | 4.0                                       |
| Princeton Twp.      | 16.3                                  | 13,198                             | 16,027                | 978   | n/a                                 | n/a                                      | 4.2                                       |
| Trenton             | 7.5                                   | 88,675                             | 85,403                | 11,154                                      | 23,646                              | 27                                       | 18.1                                      |
| Washington Twp.     | 20.7                                  | 5,815                              | 10,275                | 502   | n/a                                 | n/a                                      | 2.9                                       |
| West Windsor Twp.   | 26.8                                  | 16,021                             | 21,907                | 842   | n/a                                 | n/a                                      | 2.5                                       |
| <b>Mercer Total</b> | <b>226.1</b>                          | <b>325,824</b>                     | <b>350,761</b>        | <b>1,551</b>                                | <b>84,337</b>                       | <b>24</b>                                | <b>5.3</b>                                |

<sup>1</sup> 1990 census counts are as published in 1990 census reports and thus do not include any changes published subsequently due to boundary changes or to the Count Question Resolution program.

NOTE: Data not adjusted based on the Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, non-sampling error, and definitions, see <http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/expplu.html>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (P.L. 94-171) Summary File, Table PL1, and 1990 census.

| Federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Participants 1998 |              |                                 |                       |                                       |
|---|--------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Town  | Zip Code     | Total Number of Federal Returns | Number of EITC Filers | EITC Percent of Total Federal Returns |
| Hightstown  | 08520        | 11,916                          | 712                   | 6%                                    |
| Hopewell  | 08525        | 2,475                           | 80                    | 3                                     |
| Pennington  | 08534        | 3,793                           | 64                    | 2                                     |
| Princeton   | 08540        | 17,670                          | 503                   | 3                                     |
|   | 08542        | 1,655                           | 146                   | 9                                     |
|   | 08543        | 313                             | 28                    | 9                                     |
|   | <b>total</b> | 20,214                          | 677                   | 3                                     |
| Princeton Junction  | 08550        | 6,113                           | 52                    | 1                                     |
| Titusville  | 08560        | 1,857                           | 24                    | 1                                     |
| Trenton   | 08601        | 85                              | 17                    | 20                                    |
|   | 08602        | 36                              | 13                    | 36                                    |
|   | 08603        | 41                              | 10                    | 24                                    |
|   | 08604        | 57                              | 14                    | 25                                    |
|   | 08605        | 48                              | 11                    | 23                                    |
|   | 08606        | 73                              | 19                    | 26                                    |
|   | 08607        | 447                             | 144                   | 32                                    |
|   | 08608        | 238                             | 108                   | 45                                    |
|   | 08609        | 5,663                           | 2,093                 | 37                                    |
|   | 08610        | 14,199                          | 1,256                 | 9                                     |
|   | 08611        | 8,919                           | 2,322                 | 26                                    |
|   | 08618        | 15,469                          | 4,145                 | 27                                    |
|   | 08619        | 11,345                          | 592                   | 5                                     |
|   | 08620        | 6,101                           | 314                   | 5                                     |
|   | 08628        | 4,758                           | 223                   | 5                                     |
|   | 08629        | 5,231                           | 898                   | 17                                    |
|   | 08638        | 12,246                          | 2,165                 | 18                                    |
|   | 08648        | 13,427                          | 767                   | 6                                     |
|   | 08650        | 242                             | 12                    | 5                                     |
| 08690   | 9326         | 298                             | 3                     |                                       |
| 08691   | 5431         | 149                             | 3                     |                                       |
| <b>total</b>  |              | 113,426                         | 15,570                | 14                                    |
| Windsor   | 08561        | 148                             | 17                    | 11                                    |
| <b>MercerTotal</b>  |              | 159,942                         | 17,196                | 11                                    |

Source: 1998 IRS Zip Code Data

| Federal EITC Eligibility Tax Year 2000              |              |                |
|---|--------------|----------------|
| If during the tax year you                          | Income Limit | Maximum Credit |
| Raised one child                                    | \$27,413     | \$2,353        |
| Raised more than one child                          | \$31,152     | \$3,888        |
| Raised no child but are an adult 25 to 64 years old | \$10,380     | \$353          |

The Federal Earned Income Tax Credit is provided to working families raising children (and certain individuals without children) who meet the criteria above. New Jersey has also implemented a state EITC beginning in 2000. For More Information on Federal EITC and State EITC visit <http://www.acnj.org/FamilyResources.html>

Source: Earned Income Tax Credit, Leap Fact Sheet, Association for Children of New Jersey, 2000



## MERCER COUNTY MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

| Municipality        | Births 1998  | Low Birth Weight 1998 |               | No Prenatal Care 1998 | Births to Teens 1998<br>Ages 15—19 | Births to Single Mothers 1998 | Births by Race 1998 |              |            | Births by Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity 1998 | Women, Infant, & Children Receiving WIC Benefits 2000 |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|------------|---|---|
|                     |              | <1500 gms             | 1500—2499 gms |                       |                                    |                               | White               | Black        | Other      |   |   |
| East Windsor Twp.   | 293          | <5                    | 20            | <5                    | 18                                 | 47                            | 236                 | 33           | 19         | 40  | 154   |
| Ewing               | 338          | <5                    | 15            | <5                    | 29                                 | 101                           | 224                 | 97           | 13         | 17  | 184   |
| Hamilton            | 1,015        | 22                    | 67            | 7                     | 49                                 | 217                           | 838                 | 124          | 46         | 90  | 719   |
| Hightstown          | 108          | <5                    | 6             | <5                    | <5                                 | 22                            | 90                  | 10           | 6          | 20  | 248   |
| Hopewell Boro.      | 27           | <5                    | <5            | <5                    | <5                                 | <5                            | 27                  | <5           | <5         | <5  | 4   |
| Hopewell Twp.       | 178          | <5                    | 7             | <5                    | <5                                 | <5                            | 162                 | <5           | 10         | 5   | 8   |
| Lawrence            | 294          | <5                    | 21            | <5                    | <5                                 | 45                            | 207                 | 42           | 37         | 17  | 140   |
| Pennington          | 32           | <5                    | <5            | <5                    | <5                                 | <5                            | 31                  | <5           | <5         | <5  | 8   |
| Princeton Boro.     | 108          | <5                    | 8             | <5                    | <5                                 | 18                            | 87                  | 8            | 8          | 16  | 155   |
| Princeton Twp.      | 155          | <5                    | 6             | <5                    | <5                                 | 16                            | 127                 | 11           | 14         | 21  | 61  |
| Trenton             | 1,442        | 44                    | 143           | 50                    | 329                                | 1,029                         | 482                 | 862          | 80         | 349   | 5,247   |
| Washington Twp.     | 149          | <5                    | 6             | <5                    | <5                                 | 7                             | 130                 | <5           | 12         | <5  | 26  |
| West Windsor Twp.   | 254          | <5                    | 6             | <5                    | <5                                 | 11                            | 185                 | <5           | 52         | 14  | 23  |
| <b>Mercer Total</b> | <b>4,393</b> | <b>75</b>             | <b>292</b>    | <b>61</b>             | <b>425</b>                         | <b>1,517</b>                  | <b>2,329</b>        | <b>1,178</b> | <b>294</b> | <b>592</b>                                  | <b>6,995</b>  |

Note: Many municipalities in New Jersey share mailing addresses and zip codes with adjacent or neighboring areas. This can lead to geographic errors in assigning where an incident occurs. As coding of residences improves, there may be large changes in the numbers assigned to cities. These changes would reflect differences in coding rather than real changes in the incident.

Source: 1998 Municipality -Level Births by Selected Characteristics, Center for Health Statistics, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services at <http://www.state.nj.us/health/chs/bir98mer.htm>

**Asthma** - Number of children by age (under 19) and number of children by Race admitted into hospital in 1998 with the diagnosis of asthma; Number of asthma hospital admissions through the emergency room 1998. (NJ Department of Health and Senior Services).

**Birth Data 1996, 1997, 1998**— (Center for Health Statistics, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services).

**Births to Single Mother**— Number of mothers not married at time of birth or any time during the pregnancy 1996, 1997, 1998 ( Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services).

**Births to Teens** - The number of women ages 15 to 19 who gave birth in 1996, 1997 and 1998, (Center of Health Statistics, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services). Children born to adolescents are more likely to be of low birth weight, to have health problems, and to suffer child abuse and neglect. Adolescent parents have fewer educational and career opportunities, thus perpetuating poverty for themselves and their children.

**Child Abuse and Neglect** - The number of substantiated abuse and neglect cases in 1996, 1997 and 1998. (Division of Youth and Family Services, NJ Department of Human Services) - (DYFS). A substantiated case is determined when a DYFS social worker establishes that a child has been physically, sexually, mentally, or emotionally abused by a parent, guardian or other adult who has control or custody of the child, and that the abuse can cause or create a substantial risk of impairment or death to the child. (“Children at Risk 1995 and 1996”).

**Child Care Connection Child Care Survey of Trenton Centers**—Forty three centers in Trenton participated in the survey. Twenty-two were Abbott centers and twenty-one were Non-Abbott centers (Child Care Connections, July 2000).

**Child Deaths** - Over one-third of child deaths are caused by motor-vehicle related injuries, infectious diseases, and other injuries, including those related to fires. These causes are related to risks in families and communities, such as the lack of well-developed interventions and services.

**Children and Lead Poisoning**—Number of Lead Cases with blood lead content greater than 20ug/dL in 1998, 1999, 2000 (Trenton Department of Health).

**Children Living with HIV/AIDS** — New Jersey HIV/AIDS Surveillance Data 1996—2000. Every three months, the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) publishes statistics that reflect the number of persons living with HIV/AIDS in New Jersey by county of residence. These statistics are gathered by matching the state HIV/AIDS Reporting System (HARS) with NJDHSS’s Death Certificate Registry on a monthly basis, and recording new deaths in the HARS. This allows NJDHSS to maintain and present current information on those still alive. As of December 31, 2000, just over half (51%) of all New Jersey residents ever reported with HIV/AIDS were still alive. (New Jersey Division of Aids Control, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services).

**Children Served by State Funded Mental Health Programs**— All Children 18 and under by Primary Presenting Problem FY 1996, 1997, 1998 (Division of Mental Health Services, Department of Human Services).

**Density** - Number of people per square mile (U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census Data, 2000).

**Domestic Violence**—Number of reported cases of domestic violence 1998 and 1999 (*Crime in New Jersey, 1999 Uniform Crime Report*, New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety).

**Elementary School Proficiency Assessment (ESPA)** - Given to 4th grade students. The ESPA measures what students know and can do in language arts literacy (reading and writing), math and science— three of the content areas covered by the state’s higher core curriculum content standards. For more information about the ESPA, visit the NJ Department of Education’s website at <http://www.state.nj.us/njded/cccs/index.html> Trenton Public Schools, NJ School Report Card 1997-2000 Update, NJ Department of Education).

**Estimated Living Arrangements of Infants Born to Single Mothers in Trenton**- Estimates are based on the product of the average of Newark and Philadelphia living arrangement data from the “2000 Fragile Families” and 1998 births to single mothers in Trenton (2000 “Fragile Families Survey”; Center for Health Statistics, NJ Department of Health).

**Estimated Median Household Income 1997**— (U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates Program, Released November 2000).

**Estimated Number of Persons Below Poverty 1997**—(U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates Program, Released November 2000).

**Estimated Number of Persons Under 18 in Poverty 1997**—(U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates Program, Released November 2000).

**Estimated Number of Related Children Ages 5-17 in Families in Poverty 1997**—(U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates Program, Released November 2000).

**Family Day Care Providers** - A Family Day Care Provider may care for up to five non-resident children in her own home. Programs for Parents recruits, trains, monitors and registers Family Day Care Providers for Trenton and

Mercer County. The registration process is voluntary. Programs for Parents are designated by the NJ Department of Human Services and coordinated through the Child Care Connection.

**Family Problems**— The number of cases of identified risk in 1996, 1997 and the number of family problems referrals in 1998. (Division of Youth and Family Services, NJ Department of Human Services). Data in 1998 may reflect changes in DYFS case handling standards. Modification to case handling at screening and intake (due primarily to new standards to determine risk to children living with substance abusing parents) has increased the proportion of reports classified as abuse and neglect relative to those classified as family problems (Division of Youth and Family Services, Department of Human Services).

Due to changes in data collection practices family problem referrals with identified risk could not be calculated for 1998.

Cases identified as family problems remain open for services after family intake. Such cases are situations that affect a child’s well-being and growth without rising to the statutory definition of child abuse and neglect. (“Children at Risk 1993 and 1994”, Division of Youth and Family Services).

**Federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** - A tax credit program for very low income working individuals, and low to moderate income working families. (1999 IRS Zip Code Data; 2000 Internal Revenue Service Zip Code Data; February 2001, Statement of Income for New Jersey).

**Food Stamps** - The number of children receiving Food Stamp benefits in 1997, 1998 and 1999 - March, July, November average. This is a federal program administered at the state level that provides cash assistance to pay for food to Work First New Jersey participants as well as low-income individuals and families who are not on welfare, and those who move off of public assistance (NJ Department of



Human Services, Division of Family Development).

**Grade Eight Proficiency Exam (GEPA)** - Given to 8th Grade students. The GEPA measures what students know and can do in language arts literacy (reading and writing) and math, two of the content areas covered by the state's higher core curriculum content standards. For more information about the GEPA, visit the NJ Department of Education's website at <http://www.state.nj.us/njded/cccs/index.html> (Trenton Public Schools, NJ School Report Card 1998-2000 Update, NJ Department of Education).

**Graduation Rates** - Trenton Public School District Graduation Rates 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000. This Data indicates the average graduation rates for Trenton High School students. Calculation for rates is as follows: number of graduates for a given year divided by the number of ninth grade students enrolled as of October 15th, four years earlier. This calculation better represents the number of students that actually complete high school. (Center for Government Services, Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University).

**Grandparents Raising Children** - Survey of 41 grandparents in Mercer county (*Grandparents Raising Children in Mercer County: A Report from a Coalition*, Mercer County Office of Aging, March 1998).

**High School Graduation Rate** - This data indicates the average graduation rates for Trenton High School students. (Trenton Department of Education).

**High School Proficiency Test (HSPT)** - A statewide assessment test taken in grade 11. It consists of three sections-reading, writing and math. It must be passed as a requirement for a high school diploma. Data represents cumulative percentage of enrolled, eligible

students and excludes special education and limited English proficiency students For more information about the HSPT, visit the NJ Department of Education's website at <http://www.state.nj.us/njded/cccs/index.html> (Trenton Public Schools, NJ School Report Card 1998-2000 Update, NJ Department of Education).

**Homelessness in America: A Children's Story Part 1** - This survey was conducted by Homes for the Homeless and the Institute for Children and Poverty in early 1999. It is a national report on the status of homeless children, which explores homeless children's educational experiences, physical and emotional health, hunger and nutrition, and exposure to violence.

The Institute for Children and Poverty is the research and training division of Homes for the Homeless, which operates residential and family-based educational programs at its four American Family Inns in New York City (Homes for the Homeless and the Institute for Children and Poverty, 1999).

**Infant Mortality Rate** - The number of infants per 1,000 who died before their first birthday in 1996, 1997, 1998 (Center for Health Statistics, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services). High rates of infant mortality are indicative of poor access to health care, lack of prenatal care, birth defects (including those caused by prenatal exposure to alcohol and drugs), and high rates of poverty.

**Isles, Inc.** - A Trenton-based community development corporation founded in 1981. All of Isles' programs provide the framework for citizens of all ages to become involved and promote changes in their communities. Isles' mission is to foster self-sufficient families in sustainable communities.

**Juvenile Arrest** - The number of juveniles arrested (ages 10-17) in 1996 and 1997. The increase in Trenton total arrests or the decline in Trenton juvenile arrests could be attributed to

increased numbers of police officers patrolling the city ("Crime in New Jersey, Uniform Crime Report"; Trenton Police Department).

**Kinship Foster Care** - This report presented the results of four separate, and relatively independent research tasks. Taken as a whole, they provide a greatly improved picture of kinship care in the U.S., and provide an enriched context for discussing this issue. (Department of Health and Human Services).

**Labor Force Estimates 1990, 1995, 2000** - Number of people working or actively seeking employment. (New Jersey 1990, 1995, 2000 Annual Average Labor Force Estimates By Municipality, NJ Department of Labor, Office of Research and Planning, Division of Labor Market and Demographic Research, Bureau of Labor Force, Local Unemployment Statistics as of February 27, 2001).

**Lead Poisoning** - Children who have tested at or above 20 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood are considered to have unacceptably high levels of lead in their blood. Lead poisoning in children can lead to several health and developmental problems in life (Trenton Department of Health, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services).

**Licensed Child Care Centers** - Number of licensed child care centers in Trenton that are currently licensed by the NJ Bureau of Licensing at the Division of Youth and Family Services (Division of Youth and Family Services, NJ Department of Human Services).

**Low Birth Weight 1996, 1997, 1998** - Babies born weighing below 2,500 grams (5.5 lbs.) in 1996, 1997 and 1998. These babies have a higher death rate and are more likely to develop disabilities, which create a greater need for medical services, special education, and lifelong support services. (Center for Health Statistics, Department of Health and Senior Services).

**Medicaid** - Children Receiving Medicaid Benefits (including those enrolled in Family Care) 1997, 1998, 1999. Medicaid gives basic preventive health care to eligible individuals. Medicaid covers the doctor and dentists visits, time in the hospital, lab and x-ray services, family planning, nurse-midwife services, and early, periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment (EPSDT) of kids under 21. NJ Family Care is a health insurance program for working families. It is provided through Medicaid and private health maintenance organizations (HMOs). Depending on the income level and family size, participants may be required to pay a premium (Office of Medicaid, Department of Human Services).

**Mercer County Child Care Funded Programs** - (NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Youth and Family Services.).

**Mercer County Fair Market Rent in 2000** - Amount is for a two-bedroom apartment. (National Low Income Housing Coalition, Out of Reach Report, 2000).

**Mercer County Area Male Student Summit Survey** - On November 30, 2000 more than 600 young men from the Mercer County area attended a Male Summit sponsored by Millhill Child and Family Development Corporation. Evaluations were received from 212 young men (Millhill Child and Family Development Corporation).

**Millhill Survey of Trenton Public School Nurses 2000** - In June Millhill surveyed 34 Public School Nurses and four Early Childhood nurses. Seventeen responses were received. (Millhill Child & Family Development Corporation, 2000).

**No Prenatal Care** - Children born 1996, 1997, 1998 whose mothers reported receiving no prenatal medical care. Such children are



more likely to be of low birth weight. Mothers who do not receive prenatal care have higher rates of maternal death, illnesses and complications, all of which have adverse implications for the child (Center for Health Statistics, Department of Health and Senior Services).

**Number of Agencies in Trenton that Received Food from the Mercer Street Friends Co-operative** — (Food Research and Action Center).

**Number of Child Care Centers** – (Mercer Child Care Connections, December 2000).

**Per Capita Personal Income 1998** – (PCP Income, New Jersey Department of Labor, November 2000).

**Percent of Students Enrolled in National School Lunch Program** — 1997/98 and 1998/99 school year. (Bureau of Child Nutrition, Department of Agriculture).

**Population 1990, 2000** – (U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (P.L. 94-171) Summary File, Table PL1, and 1990 census.)

**Poverty Level** – Defined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as the threshold for the distribution of AFDC/TANF and Food Stamp Benefits.

**Rate of Unemployment 1990-2000** — (New Jersey Annual Unemployment Rate by County 1990-2000).

**Retrospective Immunization Audit** – A standardized assessment of the immunization records of all first grade children (six years old) to determine if they were immunized. The series consists of 4 doses of the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine; 3 doses of the poliovirus vaccine; and 1 dose of the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine (Trenton Department of Health).

**Mothers Engaged in Risk Behavior During Pregnancy**— Use of these substances is self-reported, therefore an undercount may be possible (Center for Health Statistics, Department of Health and Senior Services).

**Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT)** - Data represents average scores for students that took the test. This test is used as a selection criteria for admittance into most colleges and universities (New Jersey School Report Card 2000, Trenton Board of Education).

**Self Sufficiency Standard for Mercer County 1999**— (The Real Cost of Living: The Self-Sufficiency Standard for New Jersey Center for Economic Policy and Education).

**Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD)** The number of reported cases of STDs by persons under 20 in 1996 1997, 1998 and 1999 (STD Prevention and Control Program, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services).

**Single Mothers** - Percentage of births in 1997, 1998, and 1999 to unmarried mothers (NJ Department of Health and Senior Services).

**Student Enrollment** - Number of students in the Trenton Public Schools in 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000 (New Jersey School Report Card 2000; Trenton Department of Education).

**Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)** – The number of children receiving TANF benefits 1997, 1998, 1999. This program provides cash assistance to eligible needy families with children. As part of Work First New Jersey (WFNJ) the program also provides parents with job preparation, work, and support services to enable them to leave the program and become self-sufficient. These services are provided through Federal TANF funds, State Maintenance of Effort (MOE) dollars, and other State monies. Services are available to families with incomes upto 50 percent of the Federal

Poverty Line (NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development).

**Teen Deaths** - A high percentage of adolescent deaths are caused by motor vehicle-related injuries, homicide, suicide, and other high risk behaviors. These causes are associated with risks in their families and communities, such as the lack of well-developed interventions and services. Note: Most counties and cities have relatively low numbers of teen deaths.

**Trenton Homeless Survey 1999** - Children (191) and parents (80) participated in this survey (Homeless in America: A Children's story Part One, Home for the Homeless and the Institute for Children and Poverty, 1999).

**Trenton Public School Nurses** - This survey was conducted in the spring of 2000 with permission from the Trenton Superintendent of Schools. The purpose of the survey was to identify the current issues and concerns in child health in Trenton. The survey was given to all of the Trenton Public School nurses (Millhill Child and Family Development Corporation, Spring 2000).

**Trenton Public Schools Suspensions** - Number of suspensions in-school and out-school 1997/98, 1998/99, 1999/00 school years (Trenton Board of Education).

**Trenton Public Schools Vandalism Reports** - Number of reports of vandalism, violence, weapons, substance abuse for 1998, 1999, 2000 (Trenton Board of Education).

**Tuberculosis** - Number of verified active tuberculosis cases according to the Centers for Disease Control criteria for per 100,000 in 1997 and 1998 (NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, TB Program, NJ Reportable Disease Statistics).

**Twilight Program Enrollment** – Number enrolled in 1999/00 and 2000/01. This program is an alternative educational experience for residents in need of high school diploma through a non-traditional schedule configuration. This is not a General Equivalency Diploma (GED) Program. An official high school diploma is awarded upon completion of all requirements (Trenton Board of Education).

**Violent Incidents and Weapon Possessions in the Trenton Public Schools** - Violent Incidents are defined as simple assaults, aggravated assaults, fighting, verbal threats and teacher confrontations. Weapon Possessions are defined as possession of a firearm or other weapon (Trenton Department of Education).

**Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)** - Number of persons receiving WIC 1998 and 2000. WIC is a special supplemental food program for women, infants, and children which provides food and nutrition screening and education to at-risk, low-income pregnant women, new mothers, infants and children under age five. (Office of WIC, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services).



**INVITATION TO COMMENT/REPLY**

Please take a moment to communicate your interest in *Trenton/Mercer County Kids Count 2001, City and County Profile of Child Well-Being*.

My organization would like to be a partner to Trenton/Mercer County Kids Count Project.

My organization has data that could be included in the next Trenton/Mercer County Kids Count Project.

I would like to be on the Steering Committee for the next Trenton/Mercer County Kids Count project.

I/we used the Trenton/Mercer County Kids Count to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I/we would like to suggest the following topic for the next Kids Count project for the Trenton/Mercer County area.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax #: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Note:**

Every effort has been made to confirm the accuracy of the information included in this project and to properly acknowledge all sources. However, if you identify an error or omission, please contact the Kids Count Coordinator so that appropriate action can be taken for our next issue.

Mail to: Kids Count Coordinator  
c/o Millhill Child & Family Development Corporation  
101 Oakland Street, Trenton, NJ 08618

Email: [Community@millhillcenter.org](mailto:Community@millhillcenter.org)

