kids count

NEW JERSEY Kids Count

2011

The State of Our Children

ADVOCATES *for* CHILDREN OF NEW JERSEY

Giving Every Child A Chance

NEW JERSEY **Kids Count** 2011 — *The State of Our Children*

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Advocates for Children of New Jersey *is the trusted, independent voice putting children's needs first for more than 30 years. Our work results in better laws and policies, more effective funding and stronger services for children and families. And it means that more children are given the chance to grow up safe, healthy and educated.*

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Giving Every Child A Chance

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Introduction

Investments in Children Reap Rewards

When we invest in children, we reap rewards. When we decide to use our collective resources to address a problem, we make progress. When we put children first, more kids have the needed foundation to grow into productive adults, contributing to — not costing— their communities.

New Jersey Kids Count 2011 again documents both advances and setbacks in key areas that affect child well-being — poverty, health, child protection, education, including early learning, and adolescent well-being.

To better gauge New Jersey's progress in essential areas, we have produced, for the first time, a **New Jersey Kids Count Report Card** that identifies trends in 15 key indicators of child well-being. These data were chosen because they capture the basics children need to grow up safe, healthy and educated. Children need families who can provide for them — food, housing, clothes. They need health care, a good education and to be protected from abuse and neglect.

The data used in the report card are, whenever possible, focused on outcomes. So, for example, rather than looking at enrollment counts in assistance programs, such as welfare, we included measures of the economic health of New Jersey's families. No data set is perfect, nor can one set measure everything, but this report card does provide a focused and balanced look at key areas that will greatly influence our children's future.

It is also important to remember that behind these numbers lie real children, real families. For every policy decision made in a city hall, the Statehouse and the Capitol, the future of thousands of children are affected. It is our hope that **Kids Count** helps all of us make smarter decisions on behalf of these children.

Report Card Results

So what does the report card tell us?

New Jersey children fared worse on seven of the 15 indicators, better on four and have seen no change on the remaining four.

All four areas in which gains were made were the focus of sustained, collective efforts to address a problem. Thanks to those efforts, fewer New Jersey infants died before their first birthday, fewer juveniles were arrested, more children were enrolled in nursery school or preschool and fewer children were without healthcare coverage.

Unfortunately, New Jersey's children lost ground in seven key areas. More children were living in families who earned too little to buy clothes, food and other necessities. These same families continued to face rising housing costs, meaning they had less money to meet higher expenses.

On the health front, fewer children received immunizations and fewer women received early prenatal care. The good news is that fewer children were uninsured — most likely a result of our continued efforts to enroll children in NJ FamilyCare, the state's health insurance program.

New Jersey also saw a slight drop in the percentage of youth graduating on time from high school, although our graduation rate remains one of the highest in the country. In addition, there was a small increase in the percentage of children who were abused again after they came to the attention of the state's child protection system — a fact that should be examined in the state's ongoing efforts to reform the child protection system.

Introduction

Unchanged were the percentage of children receiving school breakfast — a critical measure of child nutrition on which New Jersey continues to rank among the worst in the nation. School lunch participation rates were also unchanged, as were births to teens and the academic achievement gap between students in low-income families and their peers growing up in wealthier families.

How can we use these data?

When decision-makers — governors, lawmakers, commissioners and other key leaders — use balanced, accurate information to make choices, they have a better chance of making the right decision. A primary goal of **New Jersey Kids Count** is to provide that information, not only to policymakers, but to the public, who can also work together to improve the well-being of all New Jersey children.

As our state leaders face difficult decisions in the face of continued fiscal constraints, it is our hope here at ACNJ that they will use this information to make smart choices — and investments — to build a brighter future for all of New Jersey's children.

Cecilia Zalkind
Executive Director
Advocates for Children of New Jersey

March 2011

			% Change	Better or Worse?
Percentage of children living in low-income families	2005 27	2009 29	7	Worse
Percentage of children living in low-income families with high housing costs	2005 79	2009 82	4	Worse
Percentage of eligible children receiving school breakfast	2008–09 29	2009–10 29	0	Unchanged
Percentage of eligible children receiving school lunch	2008–09 78	2009–10 78	0	Unchanged
Infant mortality rate	2003 6	2007 5	-12	Better
Percentage of women receiving early prenatal care	2003 76	2007 74	-3	Worse
Percentage of children immunized by age 2	2005 80	2009 72	-10	Worse
Percentage of children without health insurance	2005 11	2009 9	-18	Better
Births to teens 15-19 (as a percentage of all births)	2003 6	2007 6	0	Unchanged
Percentage of youth 18-24 not working, not in school, and have no degree beyond high school	2008 12	2009 14	17	Worse
Juvenile arrest rate	2005 28	2009 24	-15	Better
Percentage of children who were not victims of repeat child abuse/neglect	2005 95	2009 94	-1	Worse
Percentage of children not enrolled in nursery school, preschool or kindergarten, ages 3–5	2007 28	2009 26	-7	Better
Academic achievement gap, K–12	2006 26	2010 26	0	Unchanged
On-time graduation rate	2003–04 86	2007–08 85	-1	Worse

Section I The State of Children and Families

In 2009, more than 8.7 million residents lived in New Jersey, with children comprising roughly one-quarter of all residents. While the state's total population continues to rise, up 1 percent from 2005, New Jersey's child population decreased 3 percent during this same time. New Jersey was home to about 2 million children in 2009.

An interesting trend is a drop in the percentage of white and black children living in New Jersey and a rise in the percentage of Hispanic, Asian and multi-racial children. While white children are still the majority in the state, comprising 53 percent of the child population, the state continues to become more racially diverse.

The structures of families are also slowly changing across New Jersey. Both the number and percent of families headed by one parent are increasing. In 2009, almost one in three families was headed by a single parent. At the same time, the number of grandparents raising their grandchildren has decreased 12 percent since 2005.

Demographics

	2005	2008	2009	% Change 05–09
Total Population	8,621,837	8,663,398	8,707,739	1
Child Population Under 18	2,106,520	2,053,346	2,045,848	-3
Child Population Under 5	571,407	557,403	555,282	-3

Births

	2003	2006	2007*	% Change 03–07
Total Births	116,823	114,665	115,908	-1

*Data for 2007 are preliminary.

Family Structure

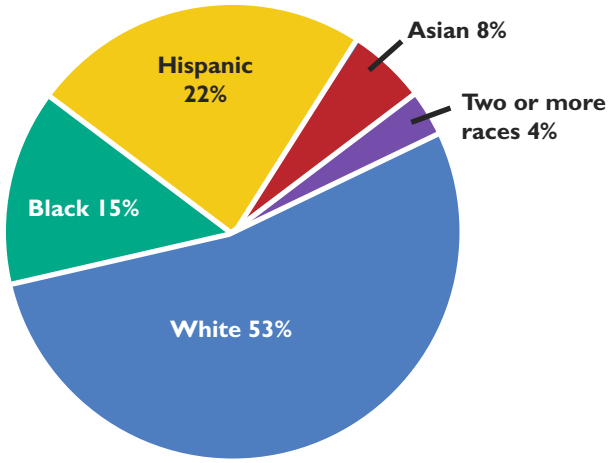
	2005	2008	2009	% Change 05–09
Families Headed by One Parent	327,663	320,807	330,773	1
Percentage of Families Headed by One Parent	29	29	30	3
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren	57,140	50,674	50,138	-12

Child Population by Race (%)

	2005	2008	2009	% Change 05–09
White	57	54	53	-6
Black	16	15	15	-5
Hispanic	19	21	22	16
Asian	7	8	8	16
Two or More Races	3	4	4	41

Percentages exceed 100%, as some survey participants reported multiple race categories.

Child Population by Race, 2009



Section 2 The State of Family Economics

The economic recession has had lasting effects on the families and children who continue to struggle across New Jersey. The number of children living in extreme poverty or in families that are poor or low-income continued to increase in 2009. Nearly 600,000 New Jersey children lived in low-income households in 2009—a 3 percent increase from 2005.

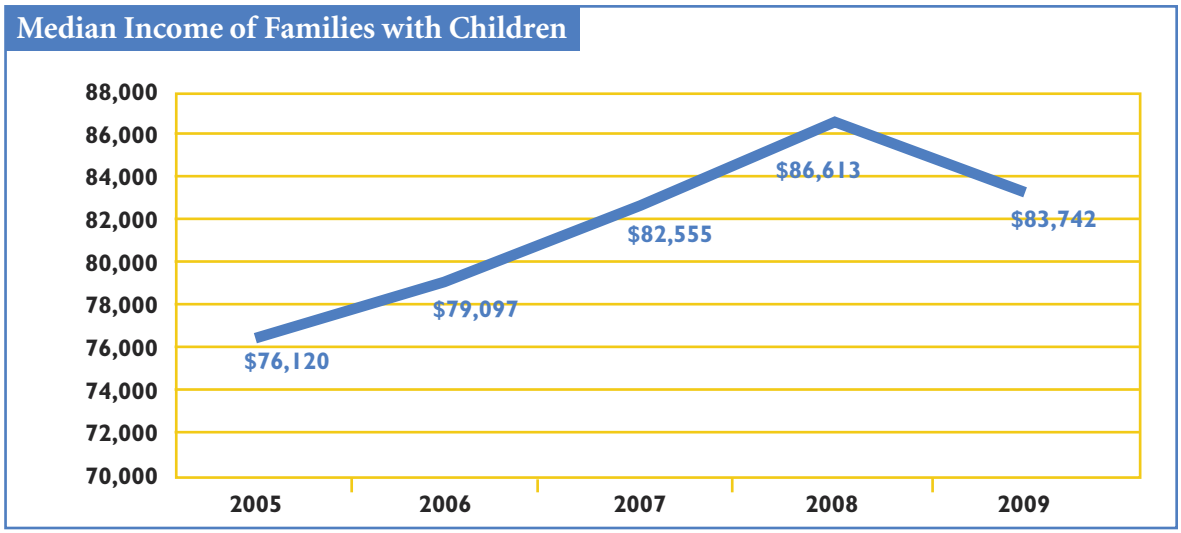
Families were, on average, earning less. After peaking in 2008, the average income for families with children dropped more than 3 percent in 2009 to $83,742. In 2009, one in four children lived in a family where no parent had regular, full-time, year-round employment, a 9 percent increase since 2008.

The number of New Jersey families without enough food to eat rose an alarming 42 percent since 2003–05. Not surprisingly, New Jersey has also seen a sharp rise in the number of children living in families receiving food stamps. More than 317,000 children received food stamps in 2010, up 58 percent since 2006.

School breakfast and lunch are effective ways to combat childhood hunger, while also improving children's chances of school success. Yet, New Jersey continues to lag far behind the rest of the country in providing free- or reduced-priced school breakfast. Less than one-third of eligible New Jersey children receive this healthy start to their school day. While more children receive school lunch, New Jersey has made little progress in increasing the percent of eligible children enrolled in this critical anti-hunger program.

There is some good news, though. In 2008 and 2009 more New Jersey families claimed valuable state and federal tax credits.

Section 2 The State of Family Economics



Children in Families that are Poor or Low-Income

	2005	2008	2009	% Change 05–09
Children below 50% of the poverty level	120,000	116,000	121,000	1
Percentage of children below 50% of the poverty level	6	6	6	0
Children below 100% of the poverty level	252,000	253,000	273,000	8
Percentage of children below 100% of the poverty level	12	13	13	8
Children below 150% of the poverty level	409,000	404,000	435,000	6
Percentage of children below 150% of the poverty level	19	20	21	11
Children below 200% of the poverty level, the level defined as low-income	575,000	543,000	591,000	3
Percentage of children below 200% of the poverty level	27	27	29	7
Children between 200–299% of the poverty level	N/A*	295,640	278,051	N/A*
Percentage of children between 200–299% of the poverty level	N/A*	15	14	N/A*
Children between 300–399% of the poverty level	N/A*	270,477	270,102	N/A*
Percentage of children between 300–399% of the poverty level	N/A*	13	13	N/A*

Note: For a family of four in 2009, 50% of the poverty level was $10,878, 100% was $21,756, 150% was $32,634 and 200% was $43,512.
**These data were not available prior to 2006.*

Family Economics (%), NJ vs. US, 2009

	NJ	US
Children in families below 200% of the poverty level	29	42
Children in families below 100% of the poverty level	13	20
Single-parent families below 100% of the poverty level	27	34
Female-headed households receiving child support, 2008	34	32

Temporary Aid for Needy Families

	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06–10
Children living in families receiving welfare (TANF)	67,037	63,556	67,632	1

Family Poverty

	2005	2008	2009	% Change 05–09
Single parents below poverty level	82,000	77,952	87,000	6
Percentage of single parents below poverty level	25	24	27	8
Children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment*	n/a	474,000	518,000	N/A
Percentage of children in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment*	n/a	23	25	N/A

**Due to a change in wording in the U.S. Census Bureau question, data prior to 2008 are not comparable.*

Housing Costs for Low-Income Families, NJ vs. US, 2005–2009

	2005		2008		2009		% Change 05–09	
	NJ	US	NJ	US	NJ	US	NJ	US
Children in low-income families where housing costs exceed 30% of income	455,000	18,602,000	441,000	18,989,000	482,000	20,452,000	6	10
Percentage of children living in low-income families where housing costs exceed 30% of income	79	65	82	66	82	67	4	3
Children living in crowded housing	206,000	9,801,000	242,000	9,387,000	229,000	9,946,000	11	1
Percentage of children living in crowded housing	10	13	12	13	11	13	10	0

Percentage of Households Without Enough Food, NJ vs. US

	2003–05	2004–06	2005–07	2006–08	2007–09	% Change 03–05 to 07–09
NJ	8	8	9	10	12	42
US	11	11	11	12	14	18

Food for Needy Families*

	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06–10
Children receiving food stamps	201,755	253,684	317,819	58
Women, infants and children receiving nutritional supports (WIC)	166,028	166,890	189,116	14

*Data are from June of each year.

Average Monthly Food Stamps Benefit per Recipient

2005	2008	2009	% Change 05–09
$92.89	$101.43	$125.06	35

Participation Rate of Eligible NJ Residents in Food Stamp Program

	2003	2006	2007	% Change 03–07
Participation rate of food stamp-eligible persons in NJ	47%	60%	59%	26
New Jersey food stamp participation, state rank	46	40	41	N/A

School Meals

	2005–06	2008–09	2009–10	% Change 06–10
Children eligible for reduced-priced school meals	77,983	86,974	86,152	10
Children eligible for free school meals	295,971	329,638	358,912	21
Total children eligible for free- or reduced-priced school meals	373,954	416,612	445,064	19
				% Change 09–10
Children receiving reduced-priced breakfast	N/A	14,182	13,975	-1
Children receiving free breakfast	N/A	104,848	113,964	9
Total children receiving free- or reduced-priced breakfast	N/A	119,030	127,939	7
School breakfast participation rates	**N/A**	**29**	**29**	**0**
Children receiving reduced-priced lunch	N/A	59,869	59,381	-1
Children receiving free lunch	N/A	264,830	287,129	8
Total children receiving free- or reduced-priced school lunch	N/A	324,699	346,510	7
School lunch participation rates	**N/A**	**78**	**78**	**0**

Tax Credits

	2006	2008	2009	% Change 06–09
State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) checks issued, all recipients	196,060	486,190	520,969	165
Average state EITC check, all recipients	$577	$458	$548	-5
State Earned Income Tax Credit checks issued, recipients with at least one dependant	189,057	373,471	398,581	110
Average state EITC check, recipients with at least one dependant	$579	$563	$674	16
	2004	**2007**	**2008**	**% Change 04–08**
Federal Earned Income Tax Credit checks issued	465,854	498,013	505,607	9
Average federal EITC check	$1,757	$1,921	$2,020	15

Child Support

	2005	2008	2009	% Change 05–09
Total open cases	363,323	347,646	357,925	-1
Percentage of cases with support orders	81	85	83	3
Child support collection rates	65	66	64	-3
Cost effectiveness of collections	$4.74	$4.20	$3.85	-19

Section 3 The State of Education

New Jersey continues to be a recognized national leader in early childhood education. Total preschool enrollments increased slightly during the 2009–10 school year. While half-day public preschool enrollment was down 43 percent, the number of children enrolled in full-day preschool rose 10 percent.

Similar to preschool enrollments, the state's kindergarten enrollments increased slightly, with less children attending half-day kindergarten but more children attending a full-day program. New Jersey's total school enrollment dipped 1 percent from 2006 to 2010.

Compared to the nation as a whole, more children in New Jersey are enrolled in a quality early learning program. Just 26 percent of children ages three to five in New Jersey were not enrolled in nursery school, preschool or kindergarten in 2009, compared to a national average of 40 percent. The number of students, ages six to 21, receiving special education dropped 8 percent from 2006 to 2010. In the 2009–10 school year, special education students comprised 14 percent of the total student population, down from 15 percent in 2005–06.

Eighty-five percent of New Jersey students graduated on-time from high school in 2007–08, slightly lower than the 84 percent in 2003–04, but still significantly higher than the U.S. average of 75 percent. More than three-quarters of all New Jersey high school seniors reported that they planned to attend college in 2009, with the majority — 52 percent — headed to a 4-year school.

The percent of New Jersey students taking the SATs declined 12 percent since 2005. Despite this, in the 2008–09 school year, 76 percent took the SATs, compared to just 46 percent nationally. Average math and verbal scores on the test remained about the same in the state, decreasing slightly.

Public Preschool Enrollments

	2005–06	2008–09	2009–10	% Change 06–10
Preschool enrollments (total)	49,636	49,080	49,940	1
Half-day preschool enrollments	9,002	5,469	5,152	-43
Full-day preschool enrollments	40,634	43,611	44,788	10

Early Education

	2007		2008		2009		% Change 07–09	
	NJ	US	NJ	US	NJ	US	NJ	US
Percentage of children not enrolled in nursery school, preschool or kindergarten, ages 3 - 5	28	41	25	39	26	40	-7	-2

Head Start

	2005	2008	2009	% Change 05–09
Children enrolled in Head Start	14,717	14,850	14,848	1

Child Care

	2006	2009	2010*	% Change 06–10
Licensed child care centers	4,269	4,256	4,209	-1
Capacity of licensed child care centers	334,576	357,568	353,706	6

**2010 data are as of June.*

Registered Family Child Care Providers

2005	2008	2009	% Change 05–09
3,411	2,987	2,938	-14

Public Kindergarten Enrollments

	2005–06	2008–09	2009–10	% Change 06–10
Kindergarten enrollments (total)	93,166	93,502	94,917	2
Half-day kindergarten enrollments	33,468	28,788	26,673	-20
Full-day kindergarten enrollments	59,698	64,714	68,244	14

Section 3 The State of Education

Public School Enrollment

	2005–06	2008–09	2009–10	% Change 06–10
Total enrollment (K-12)	1,394,779	1,377,728	1,383,706	-1

Public School Special Education Enrollment

	2005–06	2008–09	2009–10	% Change 05–09
Special education enrollment, ages 3 -5	17,890	15,350	16,423	-8
Special Education enrollment, ages 6 - 21	215,004	192,499	197,582	-8
Percent special education students, ages 6 - 21	15	14	14	-7

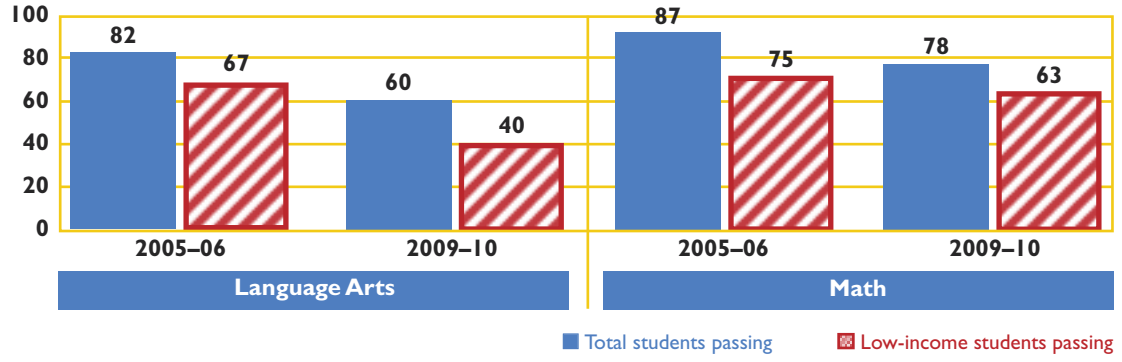
Homeless Students

	2009–10
Number of homeless students	6,397

Percentage of Students Passing 3rd Grade Tests

	2005–06	2008–09	2009–10	% Change 06–10
Language Arts	82	63	60	-28
Language Arts (limited English proficient)	48	36	33	-31
Language Arts (low-income)	67	42	40	-40
Math	87	75	78	-10
Math (limited English proficient)	66	57	57	-14
Math (low-income)	75	59	63	-17

Low-income Student Performance on NJ Tests Compared to Total State Average, 3rd Grade

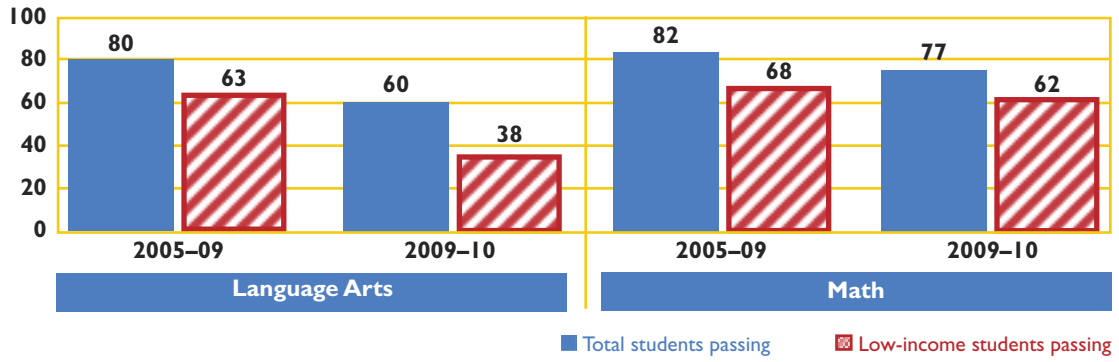


Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests

	2005–06	2008–09	2009–10	% Change 06–10
Language Arts	80	63	60	-26
Language Arts (limited English proficient)	44	33	28	-36
Language Arts (low-income)	63	41	38	-39
Math	82	73	77	-6
Math (limited English proficient)	55	52	54	-2
Math (low-income)	68	56	62	-9
Science	82	91	93	13
Science (limited English proficient)	43	73	78	82
Science (low income)	65	82	87	34

**In the 2008–09 school year, the Department of Education changed the testing standard for this grade.*

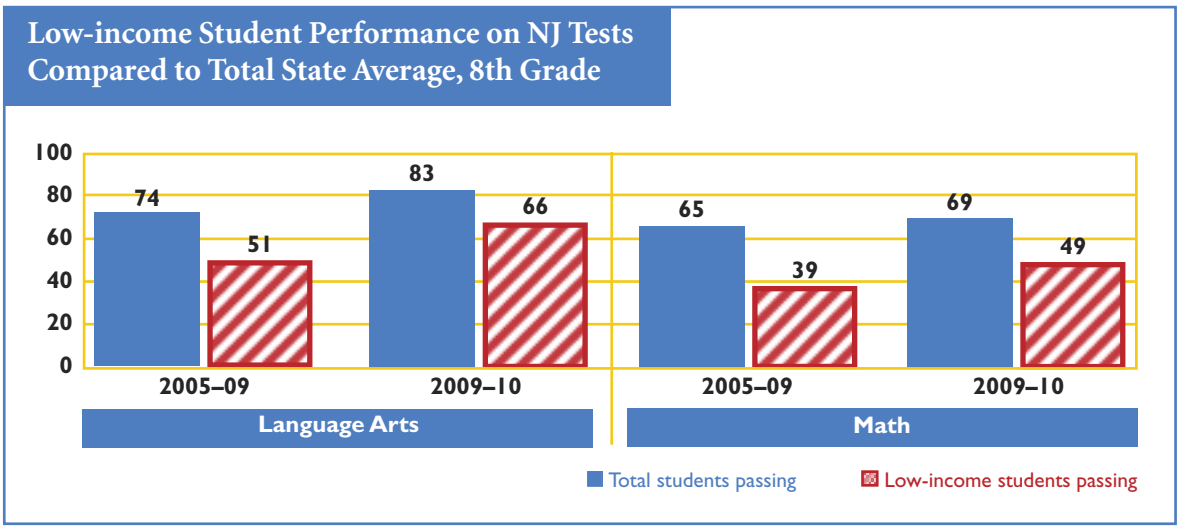
Low-income Student Performance on NJ Tests Compared to Total State Average, 4th Grade



Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests

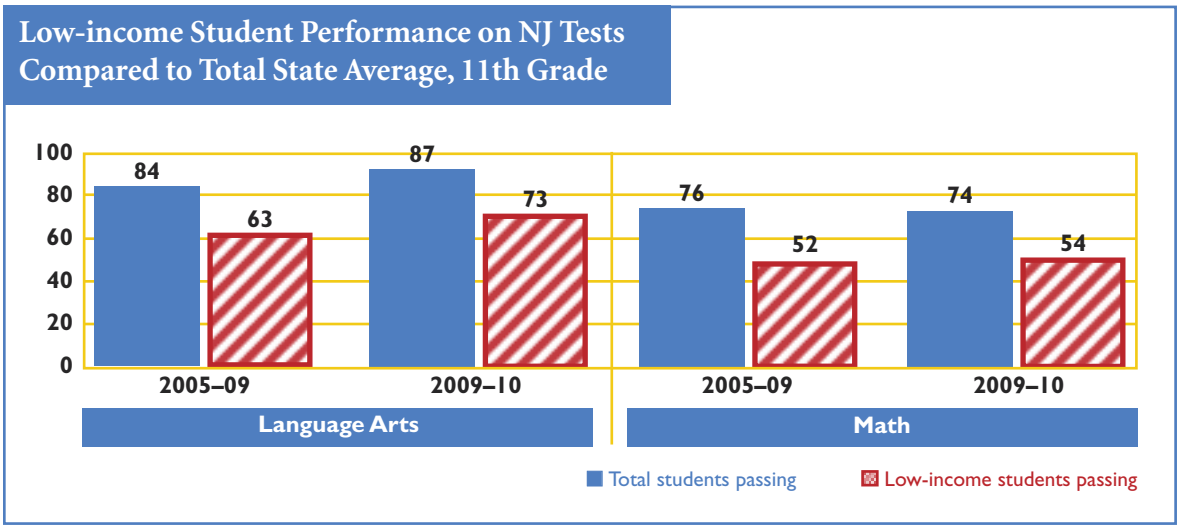
	2005–06	2008–09	2009–10	% Change 06–10
Language Arts	74	82	83	11
Language Arts (limited English proficient)	16	40	39	146
Language Arts (low-income)	51	64	66	30
Math	65	71	69	6
Math (limited English proficient)	23	38	36	58
Math (low-income)	39	51	49	27
Science	79	84	83	5
Science (limited English proficient)	26	50	42	61
Science (low income)	57	68	66	16

**In the 2008–09 school year, the Department of Education changed the testing standard for this grade.*



Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests

	2005–06	2008–09	2009–10	% Change 06–10
Language Arts	84	84	87	4
Language Arts (limited English proficient)	29	31	35	19
Language Arts (low-income)	63	67	73	16
Math	76	73	74	-2
Math (limited English proficient)	36	32	33	-9
Math (low-income)	52	51	54	5



Achievement Gap, K - 12

	2005–06	2008–09	2009–10	% Change 06–10
Achievement Gap	26%	27%	26%	0

Note: This is the percentage gap between economically disadvantaged and non-economically disadvantaged students passing state tests for all grade levels and all tests.

School Violence Incidents

2004–05				2008–09				% Change 05–09			
Violence	Vandalism	Weapons	Substances	Violence	Vandalism	Weapons	Substances	Violence	Vandalism	Weapons	Substances
10,953	3,493	1,478	2,725	10,404	2,922	995	2,928	-5	-16	-33	7

Section 3 The State of Education

Students Taking SATs

	2004–05	2007–08	2008–09	% Change 05–09
Percentage of students taking the SAT	86	76	76	-12
Average SAT math score	517	513	513	-1
Average SAT verbal score	503	495	496	-1

Graduation Rates

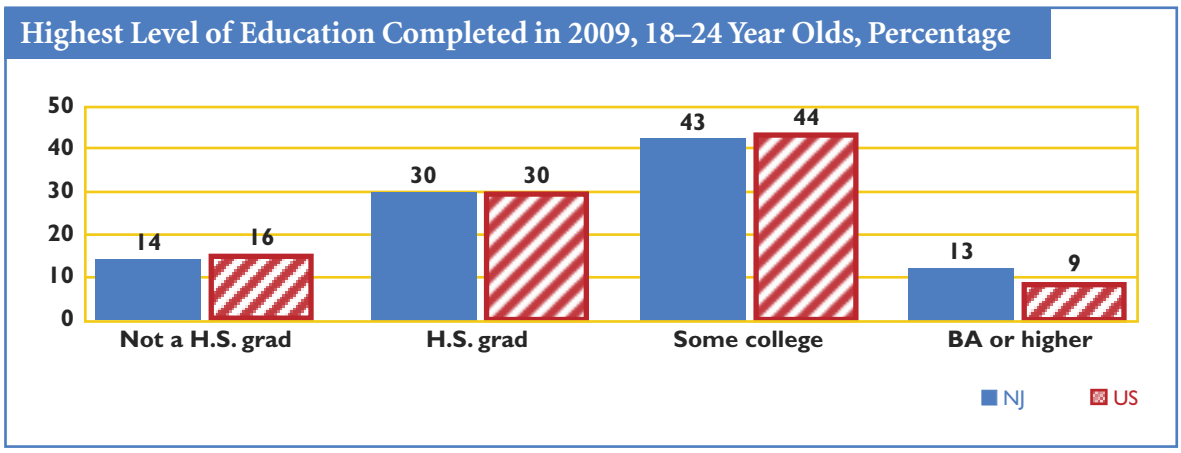
	2003–04	2006–07	2007–08	% Change 04–08
On-time graduation rate	86	84	85	-1

Public Education: NJ vs. US

	NJ	US
Average freshman graduation rate, 2007–08	85	75
Percent of students taking the SAT, 2008–09	76	46
Average SAT verbal score, 2008–09	496	501
Average SAT math score, 2008–09	513	515

Post-Graduation Plans of New Jersey High School Seniors, 2008–09, Percentage

4-year-college	2-year-college	Other college	Post-secondary	Employment	Other	Military	Undecided
52	32	1	2	6	1	2	4



Section 4 The State of Child Health

Health measures for children in New Jersey showed mixed results. Access to healthcare is vital in ensuring that children have the chance to grow up healthy and succeed in all aspects of their lives. New Jersey has been successful in reducing the number and percentage of New Jersey children without health insurance. In 2009, there were 44,000, or 19 percent, fewer uninsured children in the state than five years prior.

Since 2006, the number of New Jersey children covered by NJ FamilyCare, the state's free- or reduced-cost health insurance program, increased 22 percent. New Jersey enrolled an additional 119,423 children during that time, likely contributing to the overall decline in uninsured children.

While this is a positive trend, almost one in 10 children across New Jersey still lack health coverage. Of the children who were uninsured in 2009, a disproportionate amount — 57 percent — were low-income. Uninsured rates among low-income children ranged from 12 to 27 percent, compared to an 11 percent statewide average. These rates of low-income uninsured children are higher than national averages.

Despite the fact that more children have health coverage, New Jersey has seen an alarming drop in the percentage of children who receive all of the recommended immunizations by their second birthday. That rate dropped from 80 percent in 2005 to 72 percent in 2009. This may be a result of widespread speculation that immunizations are linked to autism.

The state also saw more babies born with low-birthweight, coupled with a decrease in the number of women receiving early prenatal care. Racial disparities persist in both of these areas. Less than two-thirds of black women in New Jersey received prenatal care in the first trimester. This rate is only slightly better among Hispanic women; white and Asian women were far more likely to receive early care. And, a black woman was twice as likely to have a low-birthweight baby than a white woman in New Jersey, a statistic that has not changed in recent years.

Both the number and rate of infant mortality and child deaths decreased in New Jersey. In 2009, more children were tested for lead poisoning. Of those children tested, 66 percent fewer tested positive for high levels of lead than in 2006, reflecting effective lead prevention efforts across the state.

Uninsured Children

	2005	2008	2009	% Change 05–09
Children without health insurance	234,000	231,000	190,000	-19
Percent of children without health insurance	11	11	9	-18

Low-Income Uninsured Children

	2005	2008	2009	% Change 05–09
Number	115,000	137,000	109,000	-5
Percentage of children without health insurance who are low-income	49	59	57	17

NJ vs. US Uninsured Children, 2008 (%)

	NJ	US
All Children	11	10
By Income		
0-99% of the poverty level	22	16
100-124% of the poverty level	27	17
125-149% of the poverty level	21	16
150-174% of the poverty level	21	14
175-199% of the poverty level	12	14
200-249% of the poverty level	13	11

Children Receiving NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid

2006	2009	2010	% Change 06–10
538,020	565,281	657,443	22

Healthy Starts

	2003	2006	2007*	% Change 03–07
Total births	116,823	109,422	115,908	-1
Low-birthweight babies	9,244	9,527	9,511	3
Percentage of low-birthweight babies	8	9	8	2
Women receiving early prenatal care	89,138	84,349	85,871	-4
Percentage of women receiving early prenatal care	76	77	74	-3
Births to unmarried mothers	33,879	36,942	39,183	16
Percentage of births to unmarried mothers	29	34	34	17

**Data for 2007 are preliminary.*

Percentage of Mothers Receiving 1st Trimester Prenatal Care, by Race

	2002	2005	2006	% Change 02–06
White, non-Hispanic	85	80	87	2
Black	62	63	62	0
Hispanic	68	66	66	-3
Asian	83	84	84	1

Percentage of Low-Birthweight Babies by Race/Ethnicity of Mother

	2002	2005	2006	% Change 02–06
White	6	7	7	11
Black	13	13	14	8
Hispanic	7	7	7	7
Asian	8	8	8	11
Other	11	9	12	7

Infant and Child Deaths

	2003	2006	2007*	% Change 03–07
Infant mortality	662	604	556	-16
Infant mortality rate/1,000 live births	6	5	5	-12
Child deaths, ages 1- 14	254	195	211	-17
Child death rate/100,000 children	15.4	12.2	15.0	-3

**Data for 2007 are preliminary.*

Preventing Childhood Illness

	2005	2008	2009	% Change 05–09
Percentage of children immunized by age 2	80	73	72	-10
Children tested for lead (0-16)	196,335	209,084	207,006	5
Children with high levels of lead	4,547	2,041	1,560	-66
Percentage of children with high levels of lead	2	1	1	-50

Children Living with HIV/AIDS*

2006	2009	2010	% Change 06–10
791	800	790	0

**Data are as of June 30 for each year.*

Children Admitted to the Hospital for Asthma

	2005	2008	2009	% Change 05–09
Asthma admissions to the hospital	4,683	4,229	4,774	2

Children Living with Asthma, NJ

2004	2007	2008	% Change 04–08
182,618	187,619	192,753	6

Percentage of Children and Teens (ages 10 to 17) Overweight or Obese

	2003			2007			% Change 03–07		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
NJ	36	26	32	36	25	31	0	-4	-3
US	35	26	31	35	27	32	0	4	3

Percentage of Children and Teens (ages 6 to 17) Not Exercising Regularly

	2003	2007	% Change 03–07
NJ	58	51	-12
US	52	52	0

Mental Health, NJ vs. US, 2007

	NJ		US	
	#	%	#	%
Children who have one or more emotional, behavioral, or developmental conditions	264,000	14	9,913,000	-15

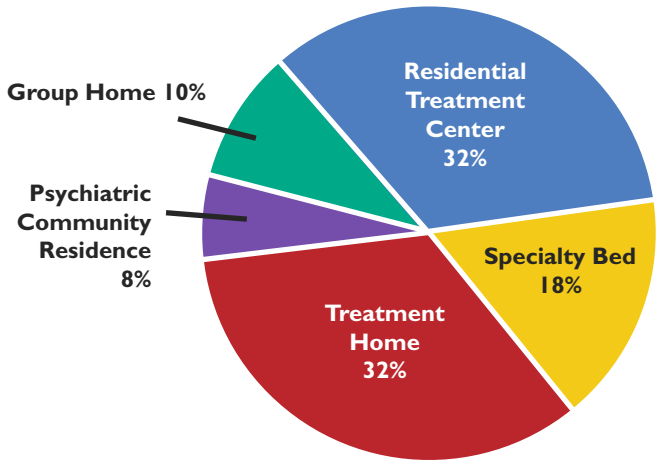
Mental HealthCare

	2003		2007		% Change 03–07	
	NJ	US	NJ	US	NJ	US
Percentage of children ages 2–17 with problems requiring counseling who received mental health care	59	59	55	60	-6	2

Division of Child Behavioral Health Services (DCBHS) Enrollment

	2006	2009	2010	% Change06–10
Children receiving managed mental/ behavioral health services	7,327	7,713	8,819	20

DCBHS Type of Out-of-Home Placement, 2010, %



Section 5 The State of Child Protection

The number of abused and neglected children under the supervision of the state's child protection agency, the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS), dropped significantly since 2006. The total number of children under DYFS supervision fell 17 percent continuing its downward trend. Similarly, the number of children in out-of-home placement dropped 27 percent between 2006 and 2010. The number of children receiving services in their own homes also decreased 15 percent and fewer children both entered and exited care.

While the amount of referrals to DYFS for non-abuse related assistance decreased, the number of investigations for child abuse/neglect performed by the agency increased significantly, 28 percent from 2005 to 2009. Of the child abuse/neglect investigations that were performed, 10 percent were proven, or "substantiated," a steep 41 percent drop from 2005.

A positive trend was in the area of adoptions. New Jersey saw a slight increase in the number of finalized adoptions and there were 39 percent fewer children in "legal limbo" — children who were legally free to be adopted but still had no permanent home — between 2006 and 2010.

Of all youth under DYFS supervision, one-quarter were between the ages of 13 and 17, a decrease of 11 percent. There were also fewer youth between 18 and 21 under DYFS supervision in New Jersey, although the percentage of youth in that age range remained static.

Children Under DYFS Supervision

	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06–10
All children under DYFS supervision*	53,698	44,954	44,399	-17
Children in out-of-home placement	10,390	7,900	7,537	-27
Children receiving in-home services	43,308	37,054	36,862	-15

**Includes children being supervised in their own homes, as well as those in out-of-home placement.*

Children Entering and Exiting Out-of-Home Care

	2005	2008	2009	% Change 05–09
Entering Care	6,566	5,609	5,181	-21
Exiting Care	7,564	6,156	6,039	-20

Referrals and Investigations

	2005	2008	2009	% Change 05–09
Investigations for child abuse/neglect	43,002	49,055	55,192	28
Referrals for child welfare services	13,917	11,170	11,086	-20

Child Abuse/Neglect Substantiations

	2005	2008	2009	% Change 05–09
Number of children where abuse/neglect was substantiated	11,023	9,015	9,286	-16
Percentage of children where abuse/neglect was substantiated	17	11	10	-41

Children Found to be Abused or Neglected After Prior Report of Abuse or Neglect*

	2004	2007	2008	% Change 04–08
After previous unsubstantiated report, w/in 6 months	811	1,141	1,216	50
After previous unsubstantiated report, w/in 12 months	1,359	1,890	1,806	33
After previous substantiated report, w/in 6 months	278	209	131	-53
After previous substantiated report, w/in 12 months	340	269	174	-49

**2009 data were not yet available.*

Repeat Child Abuse/Neglect

	2005	2008	2009	% Change 05–09
Percentage of children who were not victims of repeat abuse/neglect, w/in 6 months	95	95	94	-1

Children in Out-of-Home Care, By Type of Placement

	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06–10
Group and residential homes	1,548	1,017	861	-44
Kinship foster homes	3,709	2,905	2,590	-30
Resource families (non-kin)	4,971	4,212	3,911	-21
Independent Living	158	219	175	11
Total	10,386	8,353	7,537	-27

Children Abused/Neglected After Reunification with Family

	2004	2007	2008	% Change 04–08
Abuse/Neglect substantiated within 12 months of reunification	176	219	214	22
Percentage of children with substantiated abuse/neglect within 12 months of reunification	4.3	6.3	6.3	47

**2009 data were not yet available.*

Foster Care Re-Entry

Exit Year	2004	2007	2008	% Change 04–08
Percentage of children who exit foster care and re-enter within 12 months	17	17	15	-12

Adoptions

	2005	2008	2009	% Change 05–09
State-finalized adoptions	1,315	1,374	1,418	8

Children in Legal Limbo Awaiting a Permanent Home

	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06–10
Children legally free but not adopted	2,260	1,352	1,372	-39

Amount of Time to Reunification for Children (%)

	2005	2008	2009	% Change 05–09
Less than 12 months	63	69	70	11
12 to 23 months	23	20	19	-20
24 to 35 months	7	5	6	-17
36 to 47 months	3	1	2	-19
48 or more months	4	3	2	-49

Amount of Time to Adoption for Children (%)

	2005	2008	2009	% Change 05–09
Less than 12 months	2	3	4	61
12 to 23 months	14	21	23	62
24 to 35 months	26	33	34	30
36 to 47 months	23	19	22	-6
48 or more months	34	23	16	-53

Children Living in Permanent Homes with Relatives (Kinship Legal Guardianship)

	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06–10
Subsidized Kinship Legal Guardianship	2,002	2,655	2,517	26

Older Youth Under DYFS Supervision*

	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06–10
Youth 13 - 17 under state supervision	15,221	11,728	9,216	-39
Percentage of youth under state supervision who are 13 - 17	28	25	25	-11
Youth 18 - 21 under state supervision	2,054	2,084	1,474	-28
Percentage of youth under state supervision who are 18 - 21	4	5	4	0

**Youth under state supervision may or may not be in-out-of-home care.*

Section 6 The State of Teens and Young Adults

The number of young adults ages 18 through 24 living in poverty in New Jersey rose in 2009, posting a 4 percent increase since 2005. Although young adults in New Jersey fared better than their peers nationally, with 13 percent of New Jersey 18- to 24-year-olds living in poverty, compared to 24 percent nationally, the number and percent of young adults who are idle — not working, not in school and who had no degree beyond high school — also increased in 2009.

As a possible result, many of these young adults also lack health insurance. The amount of 19-to 24-year-olds who lack health insurance increased to 29 percent in 2009, a 7 percent change from 2005. Six percent of all births were to a female teen in 2009, a statistic that has remained the same for the past five years.

A positive trend, however, is in the area of juvenile justice. The number of juvenile arrests and the juvenile arrest rate both decreased significantly — 19 and 15 percent, respectively. The number of youth in detention also continued to show steep declines in New Jersey, likely due to the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative, which provides safe alternatives to locking up youth in county detention. From 2005 to 2009, 37 percent fewer New Jersey youth were sent to a county detention facility.

Youth committing violent offenses, drug offenses and possessing weapons all declined, while youth committing property crimes remained static. Of the juveniles who were arrested and taken into police custody in 2009, more than half — 59 percent — were referred to a juvenile court or probation department and 39 percent were handled within that police department and subsequently released.

At the same time, more New Jersey teens are being diagnosed with a sexually-transmitted infection than ever before. While the number and rate of females ages 16 to 20 diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhea or syphilis increased, more young males are also being diagnosed. In 2009, the number of males between 16 and 20 years of age with a sexually-transmitted infection jumped 42 percent, as the rate per 1,000 males rose 72 percent.

Section 6 The State of Teens and Young Adults

Young Adults in Poverty

	2005	2008	2009	% Change 05–09
Youth 18-24 in poverty	85,000	91,000	88,000	4
Percentage of youth 18-24 in poverty	12	13	13	8

Youth and Young Adults Who Are Idle

	2008	2009	% Change 08–09
Youth 18–24 not working, not in school, and have no degree beyond high school	92,000	102,000	11
Percentage of youth 18–24 not working, not in school, and have no degree beyond high school	12	14	17
Teens 16–19 not working and not attending school	31,000	30,000	-3
Percentage of teens 16–19 not working and not attending school	7	7	0

Due to a change in 2008 American Community Survey, data prior to 2008 are not comparable

NJ vs. US — 2009

	NJ	US
Percentage of youth 18-24 in poverty	13	24
Percentage of youth 18-24 who are not working, not in school, and have no degree beyond high school	14	16

Health Insurance

	2005	2008	2009	% Change 05–09
Youth 19-24 who have no health insurance	176,063	162,751	207,725	18
Percentage of youth 19-24 who have no health insurance	27	24	29	7

NJ vs. US, Health Insurance, 2009

	NJ	US
Number of youth 19-24 who lack health insurance	207,725	8,151,942
Percentage of youth 19-24 who lack health insurance	29	33

Section 6 The State of Teens and Young Adults

Births to Teens

	2003	2006	2007	% Change 03–07
Births to females 10-19*	7,144	7,127	7,322	2
Births to females 10-19 as a percentage of all births*	6	6	6	3
Births to teens 15-19*	7,055	7,032	7,207	2
Births to females 15-19 as a percentage of all births*	6	6	6	3
Percentage of births to females through age 19 who were already mothers	18	18	17	-6

** Data for 2007 are preliminary.*

Births to Teens, NJ vs. US, 2007

	NJ	US
Birth rate for 15- to 19-year-olds per 1,000 females in this age group	25	43
Percentage of births to females through age 19 who are already mothers	17	19

Juvenile Justice

	2005	2008	2009	% Change 05–09
Juvenile arrests	60,717	52,684	48,923	-19
Juvenile arrest rate	28	26	24	-15
Juvenile commitments	1,031	664	581	-44
Admissions to juvenile county detention	10,247	7,731	6,491	-37
Average daily population as a percentage of approved capacity	75	61	63	-16
Average length of stay in detention in days	25	28	28	12

Teen Arrests (13 - 19) by Type of Offense as Percentage of All Arrests

	2005	2008	2009	% Change 05–09
Violent offenses	25	24	23	-8
Property crimes	36	36	36	0
Drug offenses	26	26	25	-4
Weapons	43	40	37	-14

Teen Arrests (13 - 19) by Type of Offense as Percentage of All Arrests, NJ vs. US, 2009

	NJ	US
Drug Offenses	25	23
Weapons	37	31
Violent Crimes	23	24
Property Crimes	36	36

Police Disposition of Juveniles Taken into Custody, 2009

	Number	%
Handled within police department and released	18,965	39
Referred to juvenile court or probation department	28,427	59
Referred to child welfare agency	330	1
Referred to other police agency	214	0
Referred to criminal or adult court	692	1

Sexually-Transmitted Infections

	2005	2008	2009	% Change 05–09
Males 16-20 diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhea or syphilis	1,706	2,325	2,427	42
Rate per 1,000 males diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhea or syphilis	5	8	9	72
Females 16-20 diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhea or syphilis	8,032	9,246	9,501	18
Rate per 1,000 females diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhea or syphilis	27	30	29	9
All youth 16-20 diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhea or syphilis (includes youth where sex is not known)	9,738	11,576	11,935	23
Rate per 1,000 youth diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhea or syphilis	17	20	20	17

Teen Deaths

	2003	2006	2007	% Change 03–07
Teen deaths	240	264	256	7
Teen death rate per 100,000 teens	42	50	44	5
Teen deaths by accident, homicide, suicide, rate per 100,000 teens	27	35	30	11

**Data from 2007 are preliminary.*

Teen Deaths, NJ vs. US, 2007

	NJ	US
Teen death rate per 100,000 teens	44	62

Section 7 The State of Immigrant Families

While only a small proportion of New Jersey's children — 6 percent — are born outside of the United States, a far greater share live in immigrant families. One in three children in New Jersey lived in an immigrant family in 2009, defined as a family where at least one member was born in a foreign country, an increase of 10 percent from 2005. Of those children living in immigrant families, 87 percent were United States citizens, and almost all — 96 percent of children ages 5 through 17 — had no difficulty speaking English.

However, New Jersey's immigrant families still struggle more than their non-foreign born counterparts. More than double the number of immigrants are not high school graduates and 26 percent of immigrants in New Jersey earned less than $25,000 in 2009. Further, foreign-born males who work full-time, year-round, stand to make $15,242 less per year than New Jersey residents who were born in the United States. Foreign-born females earned $9,330 less per year. Despite this, immigrants living in the state do tend to have higher education levels and earn more than immigrants who live across the country, on average.

Foreign-born Children

	2005	2008	2009	% Change 05–09
Foreign-born children	122,993	118,694	116,077	-6
Percentage foreign-born children	6	6	6	0

Children in Immigrant Families and Citizenship

	2005	2008	2009	% Change 05–09
Children in immigrant families	646,000	652,000	667,000	3
Percentage of children in immigrant families	30	32	33	10
Children in immigrant families who are citizens	555,005	555,560	574,334	3
Percentage of children in immigrant families who are citizens	87	86	87	0

Children in Immigrant Families and Language

	2005	2008	2009	% Change 05–09
Children ages 5–17 in immigrant families who are bilingual	280,842	299,389	308,611	10
Percentage of all children in immigrant families	74	77	77	4
Children ages 5–17 in immigrant families who have no difficulty speaking English*	423,815	437,168	444,400	5
Percentage of all children in immigrant families	96	96	96	0

**Children who speak English exclusively or have the ability to speak English rated as "well" or "very well".*

Immigrant Workers and Their Families, 2009 (%)

	NJ US Born	NJ Foreign Born	US Foreign Born
Not a high school graduate	10	22	32
Earn less than $25,000 /year	12	26	35
Median earnings for full-time, year round male workers	$61,724	$46,482	$35,009
Median earnings for full-time, year round female workers	$46,597	$37,258	$30,173
Poor families with children under 18	10	12	22
Single-mother householder in poverty	29	32	43
Single-mother householder in poverty with children under 5	37	36	44
Owned homes	70	53	53
Rented homes	30	47	47
No vehicle available	10	17	13
No phone	2	2	2

Data Sources and Technical Notes

New Jersey Kids Count Report Card 2011

Percentage of children living in low-income families, 2005, 2009. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org.

Percentage of children living in low-income families with high housing costs, 2005, 2009. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org.

Percentage of eligible children receiving school breakfast, 2008–09, 2009–10. Calculated using eligibility data from the NJ Department of Education and participation data from the NJ Department of Agriculture. Includes children attending traditional public schools and charter schools. Participation data for only traditional public and charter schools were not available prior to 2008–09.

Percentage of eligible children receiving school lunch, 2008–09, 2009–10. Calculated using eligibility data from the NJ Department of Education and participation data from the NJ Department of Agriculture. Includes children attending traditional public schools and charter schools. Participation data for only traditional public and charter schools were not available prior to 2008–09.

Infant mortality rate, 2003, 2007. The number of infants under one year who died during their first year, as reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data. 2007 data are preliminary.

Percentage of women receiving early prenatal care, 2003, 2007. Percentage of live births for which the mother received early prenatal care (onset in first trimester), as reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data. 2007 data are preliminary.

Percentage of children immunized by age 2, 2005, 2009. As reported by the Centers for Disease Control, National Immunization Survey. The percent of children receiving the complete series of four or more doses of the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccines; three or more doses of poliovirus vaccine; and one or more doses of any measles-mumps-rubella vaccine by age two.

Percentage of children without health insurance, 2005, 2009. As reported by the US Census, Current Population Survey, table HI-5.

Births to teens 15-19 (as a percentage of all births), 2003, 2007. As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data. 2007 data are preliminary.

Percentage of youth 18-24 not working, not in school, and have no degree beyond high school, 2008, 2009. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org. Due to a change in the 2008 American Community Survey, data prior to 2008 are not comparable.

Juvenile arrest rate, 2005, 2009. NJ Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of State Police, Uniform Crime Reports for each year. Rate calculated using US Census population data.

Percentage of children who were not victims of repeat child abuse/neglect, 2005, 2009. US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families. Child Maltreatment 2009 report. The percentage of child abuse/neglect victims who were not victims of another substantiated incident of abuse/neglect within a 6-month period.

Percentage of children not enrolled in nursery school, preschool or kindergarten, ages 3-5, 2007, 2009. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org.

Academic achievement gap, K-12, 2006, 2010. NJ Department of Education, NJ Statewide Assessment Data. The average gap, in percent, between economically disadvantaged and non-economically disadvantaged students passing tests in 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 11th grades for each year. Includes students passing standardized achievement tests in language arts, math and science where applicable. The average was weighted to take into account different numbers of students who take each test in each grade.

On-time graduation rate, 2003–04, 2007–08. As reported by the US Department of Education, National Center for Statistics.

Section 1: The State of Children and Families

Total population, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the US Bureau of the Census, Population Division via the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org.

Child population under 18, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the US Bureau of the Census, Population Division via the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org.

Child population under 5, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the US Bureau of the Census, Population Division via the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org.

Total Births, 2003, 2006, 2007. As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data. 2007 data are preliminary.

Households headed by single parents, number and percent, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey chart B11005.

Grandparents raising grandchildren, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey chart B10056.

Data Sources and Technical Notes

Child population by race, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey charts C01001B, C01001F, C01001H and C01001I.

Section 2: The State of Family Economics

Median income of families with children, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009. As reported by the US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey chart B19125.

Children in families that are poor or low-income, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org and the US Bureau of the Census, American Community survey chart B17024. Data on children living between 200-299% and 300-399% of the poverty level were not available prior to 2006.

Family Economics, NJ vs. US, 2009. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org.

Children living in families receiving welfare (TANF), 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development. The number of children living in families receiving Temporary Aid for Needy Families. Data are from June of each year.

Single parents below poverty level, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org.

Children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment, 2008, 2009. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org. Due to a change in wording in the US Census Bureau question, data prior to 2008 are not comparable.

Housing for low-income families, 2005, 2008, 2009, NJ vs. US. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org.

Households without enough food, 2003–05, 2004–06, 2005–07, 2006–08, 2007–09, NJ vs. US. As reported by the Economic Research Service, US Department of Agriculture.

Children receiving food stamps, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development. Data are from June of each year.

Women, infants and children receiving nutritional support, 2006, 2009, 2010. Number of women, infants and children receiving WIC benefits, which include health care referrals, immunizations, screenings, nutritional counseling and a monthly food stipend. Reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Division of Family Health Services Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) for the quarter ending June 30th of each year.

Average monthly food stamps benefit per recipient, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the Food Research and Action Center ***State of the States*** annual reports.

Participation Rate of Eligible NJ Residents in Food Stamp Program, 2003, 2006, 2007. As reported by the Food Research and Action Center ***State of the States*** annual reports.

School Meals, 2005–06, 2008–09, 2009–10. Rates calculated using eligibility data from the NJ Department of Education and participation data from the NJ Department of Agriculture. Includes children attending traditional public schools and charter schools. Participation data for only traditional public and charter schools were not available prior to 2008–09.

State earned income tax credits and average check, 2006, 2008, 2009. Number of New Jersey taxpayers receiving state EITC and average refund for each tax year, as reported by the NJ Department of the Treasury. Please note that previous Kids Count reports included data that was erroneously reported by the NJ Department of the Treasury for 2007 and 2008. This report corrects the data.

Federal earned income tax credits, 2004, 2007, 2008. Number of New Jersey taxpayers receiving federal EITC and average refund for each tax year, as reported by the US Internal Revenue Service.

Total open child support cases, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement, State Box Scores.

Percent of cases with support orders, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement, Unaudited Performance Incentive Scores for each year.

Child support collections, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement, Unaudited Performance Incentive Scores for each year.

Cost effectiveness of collections, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement, Unaudited Performance Incentive Scores for each year.

Section 3: The State of Education

Public preschool enrollments, 2005–06, 2008–09, 2009–10. Number of students enrolled in half- and full-day NJ Department of Education approved programs, operated both in-district and in community centers, as reported by the NJ Department of Education, October enrollment counts of each year. Excludes children enrolled in Head Start or other federally-funded programs that do not receive any state aid.

Data Sources and Technical Notes

Percentage of children not enrolled in nursery school, preschool or kindergarten, ages 3 – 5, 2007, 2008, 2009. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org.

Children enrolled in Head Start, 2005, 2008, 2009. US Administration for Children and Families, Head Start Program Fact Sheets for each year.

Licensed child care centers and capacity, 2006, 2009, 2010. The number and capacity of state-licensed child care centers as reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families.

Registered family day care providers, 2005, 2008, 2009. The number of registered providers offering child care in their homes as reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families.

Public kindergarten enrollments, 2005–06, 2008–09, 2009–10. The number of students enrolled in half- and full-day public kindergarten, as reported by the NJ Department of Education, October enrollment counts of each year.

Public school enrollment, 2005–06 2008–09, 2009–10. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, October enrollment counts.

Public school special education enrollments, 2005–06, 2008–09, 2009–10. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, Special Education Data.

Homeless Students, 2009-10. As reported by the NJ Department of Education.

Percentage of students passing 3rd grade tests, 2005–06, 2008–09, 2009–10. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, Statewide Assessment Reports. Scores for tests are administered in the spring of each year. Scores for low-income students are based on eligibility for free- and reduced-price lunch. Please note that in 2008-09 the Department of Education changed the testing standard for this grade.

Percentage of students passing 4th grade tests, 2005–06, 2008–09, 2009–10. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, Statewide Assessment Reports. Scores for tests are administered in the spring of each year. Scores for low-income students are based on eligibility for free- and reduced-price lunch. Please note that in 2008-09 the Department of Education changed the testing standard for this grade.

Percentage of students passing 8th grade tests, 2005–06, 2008–09, 2009–10. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, Statewide Assessment Reports. Scores for tests are administered in the spring of each year. Scores for low-income students are based on eligibility for free- and reduced-price lunch. Please note that in 2007-08 the Department of Education changed the testing standard for this grade.

Percentage of students passing 11th grade tests, 2005–06, 2008–09, 2009–10. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, Statewide Assessment Reports. Scores for tests are administered in the spring of each year. Scores for low-income students are based on eligibility for free- and reduced-price lunch.

Achievement Gap, K-12, 2005–06, 2008–09, 2009–10. NJ Department of Education, Statewide Assessment Data. The average gap, in percent, between economically-disadvantaged and non-economically disadvantaged students passing tests in 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 11th grades for each year. Includes students passing standardized achievement tests in language arts, math and science where applicable. The average was weighted to take into account different numbers of students who take each test in each grade.

School violence, vandalism, weapons, and substance abuse incidents, 2004–05, 2008–09. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, Commissioner of Education's Report on Violence, Vandalism and Substance Abuse in NJ Public Schools each year.

Students Taking SATs, 2004–05, 2007–08, 2008–09. As reported by the US Department of Education, National Center for Statistics.

On-time graduation rate, 2003–04, 2004–05, 2006–07, 2007–08. As reported by the US Department of Education, National Center for Statistics.

Post-graduation plans of NJ high school seniors, 2008–09. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, 2008–09 Graduates data.

Highest level of education completed, 18-24 year olds, 2009. As reported by US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey chart B15001.

Section 4: The State of Child Health

Children without health insurance, number and percent, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the US Census, Current Population Survey, table HI-05.

Low-income uninsured children, number and percent, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the US Census, Current Population Survey, table HI-10.

Uninsured children, NJ vs. US, 2008. Data on all children are from the US Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, table HI-05. Data on income levels via the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org.

Data Sources and Technical Notes

Children receiving NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the NJ Department of Human Services as of March of each year. Includes children enrolled in Medicaid, which is available to children living in families earning below 133% of the federal poverty level and children enrolled in the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) portion of NJ FamilyCare, which is available to children living in families earning between 134% and 350% of the federal poverty level.

Total births, 2003, 2006, 2007. As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data. 2007 data are preliminary.

Low-birthweight babies, number and percentage, 2003, 2006, 2007. The number of babies weighing less than 2,500 grams, as reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data. 2007 data are preliminary.

Women receiving early prenatal care, number and percentage, 2003, 2006, 2007. Live births for which the mother received early prenatal care (onset in first trimester), as reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data. 2007 data are preliminary.

Births to unmarried females, number and percentage, 2003, 2006, 2007. As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data. 2007 data are preliminary.

Percentage of mothers receiving first trimester prenatal care by race, 2002, 2005, 2006. Calculations based on data from the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data.

Percentage of low-birthweight babies by race/ethnicity of mother, 2002, 2005, 2006. As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data.

Infant mortality, number and rate, 2003, 2006, 2007. Counts infants who die within the first year of life. As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data. 2007 data are preliminary.

Child deaths, number and rate, 2003, 2006, 2007. Counts children who died between the ages of 1–14. As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data. 2007 data are preliminary.

Percentage of children immunized by age 2, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the Centers for Disease Control, National Immunization Survey. The percent of children receiving the complete series of four or more doses of the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccines; three or more doses of poliovirus vaccine; and one or more doses of any measles-mumps-rubella vaccine by age two.

Childhood lead testing, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Family Health Services, Maternal, Child and Community Health Services, Annual reports. Any child with a blood lead level equal to or greater to 10 µg/dL (micrograms of lead per deciliter of whole blood) is suffering from childhood lead poisoning and in need of corrective follow-up treatment.

Children living with AIDS/HIV, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Division of HIV/AIDS Services.

Asthma admissions to hospital, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Hospital Discharge Data.

Children living with asthma, 2004, 2007, 2008. As reported by the American Lung Association, ***Estimated Prevalence and Incidence of Lung Disease by Lung Association Territory*** for each year.

Percentage of children and teens (ages 10 to 17) overweight or obese, 2003, 2007. Children between the 85th and 95th percentile BMI-for-age are categorized as overweight, and children at or above the 95th percentile BMI-for-age are characterized as obese. As reported by Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, National Survey of Children's Health, via the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org.

Percentage of children and teens (ages 6 to 17) not exercising regularly, 2003, 2007. The share of children and teens ages 6 to 17 who engaged in less than 5 days of vigorous physical activity in the past week. As reported by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, National Survey of Children's Health, via the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org.

Mental health, NJ vs. US, 2007. Children ages 2 to 17 with a parent who reports that a doctor has told them their child has autism, developmental delays, depression or anxiety, ADD/ADHD, or behavioral/conduct problems. As reported by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, National Survey of Children's Health, via the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org.

Mental health care, 2003, 2007. As reported by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, National Survey of Children's Health.

Division of Child Behavioral Health (DCBHS) enrollment, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families, Division of Child Behavioral Health Services. Data are as of June 30 for each year. Includes children receiving care management through DCBHS via Care Management Organizations (CMOs), Youth Case Management programs (YCMs) and Unified Care Management (UCM).

DCBHS type of out-of-home placement, 2010, %. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families, Division of Child Behavioral Health Services. Data are as of June 30, 2010.

Section 5: The State of Child Protection

Children under state supervision, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. Data are as of December 31 for 2006 and September 30 for 2009 and 2010. Includes children being supervised in their own homes as well as those in out-of-home placement.

Children in out-of-home placement, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. Data are as of December 31 for 2006 and September 30 for 2009 and 2010.

Children receiving in-home services, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. Data are as of December 31 for 2006 and September 30 for 2009 and 2010.

Children entering and exiting out-of-home care, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families.

Investigations for child abuse/neglect, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families.

Referrals for child welfare services, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. Represents calls to the state child abuse hotline where a screener determines that child abuse/neglect has not occurred but a family wants state services or intervention to prevent abuse from occurring.

Child abuse/neglect substantiations, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families.

Children found to be abused or neglected after prior report of abuse or neglect, 2004, 2007, 2008. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. Updated 2009 data were not available.

Percentage of children who were not victims of repeat child abuse/neglect, 2005, 2009. US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families. Child Maltreatment 2009 report. The percentage of child abuse/neglect victims who were not victims of another incident of substantiated abuse/neglect within a 6 month period.

Children in out-of-home care, by type of placement, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. Data from 2006 are from December 31 and 2009 and 2010 are as of September 30 for each year.

Children abused/neglected after reunification with family, 2004, 2007, 2008. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. Updated 2009 data were not available.

Foster care re-entry, 2004, 2007, 2008. As reported by the Center for the Study of Social Policy, Progress of the Department of Children and Families, Monitoring Reports. The percentage of all children who leave custody and re-enter custody within one year of the date of exit.

State-finalized adoptions, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. Represents the number of adoptions finalized through the department.

Children legally free but not adopted, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. Children whose parents' legal rights have been terminated but who have not yet been adopted. 2009 data are as of February 2009 and 2010 data are as of September 2010.

Amount of time to reunification for children (%), 2005, 2008, 2009. US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families. Child Welfare Outcomes Report Data. Please note percentages may not equal 100 due to missing data.

Amount of time to adoption for children (%), 2005, 2008, 2009. US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families. Child Welfare Outcomes Report Data. Please note percentages may not equal 100 due to missing data.

Children living in permanent homes with relatives (Kinship Legal Guardianship), 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families.

Older youth under state supervision, number and percentage, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. Youth under state supervision may or may not be in out-of-home care.

Section 6: The State of Teens and Young Adults

Young adults in poverty, number and percent, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org.

Youth 18-24 who are not working, not in school and have no degree beyond high school, 2008 and 2009. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org. Due to a change in the 2008 American Community Survey, data prior to 2008 are not comparable.

Teens 6-19 not working and not attending school, number and percent, 2008. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org. Due to a change in the 2008 American Community Survey, data prior to 2008 are not comparable.

NJ vs. US, youth in poverty, 2009. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org.

Youth 19-24 who have no health insurance, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the US Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, with assistance from the Population Research Bureau.

NJ vs. US, Health Insurance, 2009. As reported by the US Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2009.

Births to females ages 10-19, number and percentage, 2003, 2006, 2007. As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data. 2007 data are preliminary.

Percentage of births to females through age 19 who were already mothers, 2003, 2006, 2007. Percentage of all teen births that were to teenagers who had already given birth. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org.

Births to teens, NJ vs. US, 2007. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org.

Juvenile arrests, number and rate, 2005, 2008, 2009. NJ Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of State Police, Uniform Crime Reports for each year. Rate calculated using US Census population data.

Juvenile commitments, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the NJ Juvenile Justice Commission.

Admissions to juvenile county detention, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the NJ Juvenile Justice Commission, Detention Statistics Report for each year.

Average daily population as percent of approved capacity, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the NJ Juvenile Justice Commission, Detention Statistics Report for each year.

Average length of stay in detention, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the NJ Juvenile Justice Commission, Detention Statistics Report for each year.

Teen arrests, 13-19, by offense as percentage of all arrests, 2005, 2008, 2008. NJ data are from the NJ Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of State Police, Uniform Crime Reports. US data are from the US Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reporting Program, Crime in the United States Reports.

Police disposition of juveniles taken into custody, 2009. NJ Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of State Police, Uniform Crime Report.

Sexually Transmitted Infections, 2005, 2008, 2009. The number and rate of 16- to 20-year-olds who were diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhea or syphilis. As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services. Rates were calculated using US Bureau of the Census population data.

Teen deaths, 2003, 2006, 2007. Counts teenagers 15-19. As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics. Teen death rate calculated using US Census population data. 2007 data are preliminary.

Teen deaths by accident, homicide, suicide, rate per 100,000, 2003, 2006, 2007. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org.

Section 7: The State of Immigrant Families

Foreign-born children, number and percentage, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, chart B05003.

Children in immigrant families, number and percentage, 2005, 2008, 2009. Children living in families where at least one member is foreign-born. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org.

Children in immigrant families who are citizens, number and percentage, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the US Bureau of the Census, 2005 through 2009, American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) 1-year files. With assistance from the Population Reference Bureau.

Children ages 5-17 in immigrant families and language, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, with assistance from the Population Reference Bureau.

Children ages 5-17 in immigrant families who have no difficulty speaking English, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the US Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, with assistance from the Population Reference Bureau. Defined as children who speak English exclusively or have the ability to speak English rated as "well" or "very well."

Immigrant workers and their families, 2008. US Census Bureau, Selected Characteristics of the Native and Foreign-Born Population, 2009 American Community Survey chart S0501.

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