# Atlantic County

**2011 County Rank: 19**

## 2011 Kids Count County Profiles

2010 County Rank: 21

| | Year | County | NJ | 2010 Rank | 2011 Rank |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Demographics** | | | | | |
| Child Population | 2009 | 63,321 | 2,045,848 | 15 | **15** |
| Total Population | 2009 | 271,712 | 8,707,739 | 15 | **15** |
| **Family Economics** | | | | | |
| Percentage of Children in Poverty | 2009 | 17 | 13 | 17 | **15** |
| Median Income of Families with Children | 2009 | $58,459 | $83,742 | 19 | **17** |
| Percentage Unemployed | 2010 | 12.5 | 8.7 | 19 | **19** |
| Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent | 2009 | 55 | 50 | 19 | **16** |
| Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast | 2009-10 | 36.6 | 28.7 | N/A | **4** |
| **Health and Safety** | | | | | |
| Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care | 2007 | 66.8 | 76.8 | 18 | **18** |
| Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19 | 2007 | 10.32 | 6.59 | 20 | **18** |
| Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births) | 2007 | 9 | 5 | 21 | **18** |
| Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations* | 2009 | 67 | 44 | 16 | **17** |
| Children in Out-of-Home Placement* | 2010 | 5.01 | 3.47 | 11 | **15** |
| Juvenile Arrests* | 2009 | 34 | 24 | 17 | **16** |

*Rate per 1,000 children under 18.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Early Care and Education** | | | | | |
| Licensed Center-Based Child Care Supply (slots per 1,000 0-4) | 2010 | 345 | 640 | 18 | **19** |
| Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests | 2009-10 | 71 | 77 | 16 | **16** |
| Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests | 2009-10 | 75 | 78 | 14 | **15** |
| Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests | 2009-10 | 75 | 82 | 16 | **17** |

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

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Giving Every Child A Chance

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# NEWS

**For Immediate Release**

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## Atlantic County Moves Up To 19th in Kids Count Rankings

Atlantic County advanced to the 19th spot in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measures 15 areas of child well-being, moving up from the lowest ranked county last year.

The county saw its rankings improve in three critical areas: a decline in the percentage of children living in poverty, an increase in median family income and a drop in the percentage of households spending too much on rent.

The county also moved up in the ranks on two health indicators – birth to teens and infant mortality.

Atlantic again received its best marks for the percentage of eligible school-age children receiving free- or reduced-price breakfast. At roughly 37 percent, Atlantic County ranked 4th in the state on this indicator.

"We have been encouraged by the counties' increased interest in using the information presented in Kids Count to improve child well-being," said Cecilia Zalkind, executive director of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which publishes the Kids Count reports. "Their commitment to children in these tough economic times is both critical and commendable."

"Atlantic County posted improvements in critical measures of child well-being," Zalkind said. "This is good news. Still, the county continued to lag in certain education and health measures. It's our hope that county leaders will use this information to build on successes and develop creative solutions to persistent issues."

**Some key Atlantic County findings follow.**

**Child Poverty.** With 17 percent of Atlantic County's children growing up in poverty, the county ranked 15th on this indicator, up from 17th last year.

**Family Income.** Median family income increased from $56,488 to $58,459 and unemployment dropped from 14 to 12.5 percent.

**Education.** Atlantic lost a little ground on academic success measures, with a slight drop in the percentage of 8th grade students passing state tests. The county ranked 15th on 8th grade passing rates, a drop from 14th last year.

In addition to the county profiles, which measure progress over a 1-year period, ACNJ also released ***New Jersey Kids Count: The State of Our Counties,*** a pocket guide that provides a 5-year comparison of various measures of child well-being, including poverty, health, education and child protection.

"We encourage county leaders to use Kids Count data to understand the state of children in their county and to target resources to meet children's most pressing needs," Zalkind said. "Using data to drive decisions results in better outcomes for children and families."

To view the county profiles and the pocket guide, go to www.acnj.org.

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KIDS COUNT is a national and state-by-state statistical effort to track the state of children in the United States, sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Advocates for Children of New Jersey is a statewide child research and action organization and the New Jersey Kids Count grantee.