Cape May County

2011 County Rank: 18

2011 Kids Count County Profiles

2010 County Rank: 15

	Year	County	NJ	2010 Rank	2011 Rank
Demographics					
Child Population	2009	18,368	2,045,848	20	**20**
Total Population	2009	96,091	8,707,739	20	**20**
Family Economics					
Percentage of Children in Poverty	2009	12	13	7	**11**
Median Income of Families with Children	2009	$52,974	$83,742	14	**20**
Percentage Unemployed	2010	13.2	8.7	21	**21**
Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent	2009	48	50	1	**9**
Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast	2009-10	44.5	28.7	N/A	**2**
Health and Safety					
Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care	2007	77.4	76.8	12	**13**
Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19	2007	9.29	6.59	18	**15**
Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)	2007	6	5	18	**14**
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations*	2009	82	44	19	**20**
Children in Out-of-Home Placement*	2010	8.39	3.47	20	**21**
Juvenile Arrests*	2009	46	24	21	**20**
Early Care and Education					
Licensed Center-Based Child Care Supply (slots per 1,000 0-4)	2010	290	640	21	**21**
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests	2009-10	76	77	12	**12**
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests	2009-10	82	78	20	**7**
Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests	2009-10	83	82	11	**11**

*Rate per 1,000 children under 18.

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

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Cape May Slips to 18th in NJ Kids Count Rankings

Cape May County slipped to 18th place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measures 15 areas of child well-being, after ranking 15th last year.

The county saw a significant increase in the number of children growing up in poor families, which rose from 7 percent in 2008 to 12 percent in 2009. The county slipped to 11th on this important measure of child well-being, down from 7th in last year's rankings.

Cape May County families also earned significantly less in 2009 than they did in 2008, with the median family income dropping from nearly $76,000 to about $53,000. The county dropped from 14th to 20th place on this indicator. The county continued to rank last in the state for its high unemployment rate.

On the positive side, the county posted an impressive increase in the percent of 8th graders passing state tests, going from 66 percent in the 2008-09 school year to 82 percent in 2009-10, surpassing the state average of 78 percent. The county's rank moved from 20th to 7th on this measure.

Cape May also saw a drop in its infant mortality rate, going from 8 babies per 1,000 live births dying before their 1st birthday in 2006 to 6 in 2007.

"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."

"Clearly, Cape May County families are struggling financially," Zalkind said. "But the positive improvement in 8th grade test scores and the drop in infant mortality are positive signs."

Some key Burlington County findings follow.

Unemployment. While Cape May County continued to rank last in the state for its high unemployment rate of 13.2 percent in 2010, this was an improvement over 2009's 16 percent unemployment.

Housing Cost. Cape May saw a significant jump in families spending too much on housing, going from 31 percent of households in 2008 to 48 percent in 2009. It had previously ranked 1st on this indicator but fell to 9th place in this year's rankings.

Child Nutrition. Cape May ranked 2nd in the state for providing school breakfast to low-income children, serving up this healthy start to school to 44.5 percent of eligible children, far surpassing the roughly 29 percent statewide average.

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.