Essex County

2011 County Rank: 15

2011 Kids Count County Profiles

2010 County Rank: 13

	Year	County	NJ	2010 Rank	2011 Rank
Demographics					
Child Population	2009	193,289	2,045,848	2	**2**
Total Population	2009	769,644	8,707,739	3	**3**
Family Economics					
Percentage of Children in Poverty	2009	21	13	19	**18**
Median Income of Families with Children	2009	$58,069	$83,742	18	**18**
Percentage Unemployed	2010	10.2	8.7	15	**16**
Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent	2009	52	50	11	**11**
Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast	2009-10	50.3	28.7	N/A	**1**
Health and Safety					
Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care	2007	65.1	76.8	21	**20**
Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19	2007	9.38	6.59	16	**17**
Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)	2007	8	5	15	**17**
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations*	2009	49	44	13	**13**
Children in Out-of-Home Placement*	2010	6.27	3.47	21	**19**
Juvenile Arrests*	2009	21	24	8	**10**
Early Care and Education					
Licensed Center-Based Child Care Supply (slots per 1,000 0-4)	2010	793	640	4	**4**
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests	2009-10	71	77	17	**15**
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests	2009-10	69	78	18	**18**
Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests	2009-10	71	82	20	**20**

*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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Essex Slips to 15th in NJ Kids Count Rankings

Essex County slipped to 15th place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measures 15 areas of child well-being, after ranking 13th last year.

The county saw an increase in infant mortality, going from 6 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2006 to 8 in 2007, the latest year for which health statistics are available. Essex dropped to 17th place on this measure from 15th last year.

The county also lost ground on birth to teenagers, which increased slightly from 9 percent of all births in 2006 to 9.4 in 2007. Essex dropped to 17th on this measure from 15th last year.

On the positive side, Essex ranked first in the state for providing school breakfast to eligible children. The county also saw a slight increase in women receiving prenatal care and a strong drop in the number of children entering the state's foster care system.

"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."

"The increase in both infant mortality and births to teens is concerning," Zalkind said. "Essex should be commended for its efforts to give more children a healthy breakfast to start the school day and the improvement in prenatal care is a step forward."

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Some key Essex County findings follow.

Child Poverty. While child poverty increased slightly in Essex – from 20 percent of children in 2008 to 21 percent in 2009 – the county's ranking actually improved on this indicator, as other counties saw much sharper increases in child poverty.

School Breakfast. Essex provided school breakfast to half of all eligible children, far outpacing the statewide average of about 29 percent.

Foster Care. The rate at which children were placed in foster care dropped from 10 per 1,000 children in 2009 to about 6 in 2010.

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.