Salem County

2011 County Rank: 20

2011 Kids Count County Profiles

2010 County Rank: 19

	Year	County	NJ	2010 Rank	2011 Rank
Demographics					
Child Population	2009	15,559	2,045,848	21	**21**
Total Population	2009	66,342	8,707,739	21	**21**
Family Economics					
Percentage of Children in Poverty	2009	18	13	16	**17**
Median Income of Families with Children	2009	$68,309	$83,742	16	**15**
Percentage Unemployed	2010	10.8	8.7	18	**18**
Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent	2009	57	50	14	**18**
Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast	2009-10	26.2	28.7	N/A	**7**
Health and Safety					
Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care	2007	66.2	76.8	15	**19**
Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19	2007	13.88	6.59	17	**20**
Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)	2007	14	5	17	**21**
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations*	2009	76	44	20	**19**
Children in Out-of-Home Placement*	2010	5.61	3.47	19	**16**
Juvenile Arrests*	2009	37	24	14	**17**
Early Care and Education					
Licensed Center-Based Child Care Supply (slots per 1,000 0-4)	2010	363	640	20	**18**
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests	2009-10	68	77	13	**19**
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests	2009-10	75	78	13	**14**
Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests	2009-10	78	82	18	**14**

*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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Salem Slips to 20th in NJ Kids Count Rankings

Salem County slipped to 20th place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measures 15 areas of child well-being, from 19th last year.

The county lost ground on several key indicators, including households paying too much for rent, women receiving prenatal care, birth to teens, infant mortality, juvenile arrests and 4th graders passing state tests.

The county did post some improvements, including a drop in the rate at which children are placed in foster care, more child care and a rise in 11th graders passing state tests.

"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."

"There are several concerning trends in Salem that should be examined," Zalkind said. "To see the county lose ground on so many indicators of child well-being is disappointing. However, fewer children in foster care and more available child care are positive signs."

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Some key Salem County findings follow.

Child Health. Salem lost ground on several health indicators, including a drop in women receiving early prenatal care, going from 71 percent in 2006 to 66 percent in 2007, with its rank dropping from 15th to 19th. During the same time, infant mortality rose from 7 deaths per 1,000 live births to 14. The county ranked last on this indicator, from 17th last year.

Child Care. Salem County parents had more child care to choose from, with the supply going from 332 slots per 1,000 children ages 0-4 in 2009 to 363 in 2010. That moved the county from 20th to 18th on this measure.

Education. While 11th graders passing state tests rose from 71 percent in the 2008-09 school year to 78 percent in 2009-10, pass rates for 4th and 8th graders both dropped. Fourth-grade pass rates declined from 73 to 68 percent, while 8th graders dropped from 77 to 75 percent during that same time period.

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.