Union County

2011 County Rank: 10

2011 Kids Count County Profiles

2010 County Rank: 8

	Year	County	NJ	2010 Rank	2011 Rank
Demographics					
Child Population	2009	129,639	2,045,848	7	**6**
Total Population	2009	526,426	8,707,739	7	**7**
Family Economics					
Percentage of Children in Poverty	2009	14	13	13	**13**
Median Income of Families with Children	2009	$73,397	$83,742	12	**14**
Percentage Unemployed	2010	9	8.7	10	**11**
Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent	2009	53	50	12	**13**
Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast	2009-10	32.4	28.7	N/A	**5**
Health and Safety					
Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care	2007	71	76.8	14	**16**
Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19	2007	6.93	6.59	12	**12**
Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)	2007	6	5	9	**13**
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations*	2009	33	44	7	**5**
Children in Out-of-Home Placement*	2010	3.71	3.47	11	**11**
Juvenile Arrests*	2009	19	24	10	**8**
Early Care and Education					
Licensed Center-Based Child Care Supply (slots per 1,000 0-4)	2010	641	640	7	**9**
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests	2009-10	75	77	15	**13**
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests	2009-10	74	78	16	**16**
Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests	2009-10	77	82	14	**15**

*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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Union Drops to 10th in NJ Kids Count Rankings

Union County dropped to 10th place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measures 15 areas of child well-being, from 8th last year.

The county lost ground with a drop in median family income from $83,465 in 2008 to $73,397 in 2009, moving it from 12th to 14th place on this measure. More Union County families paid too much for rent, rising from 51 percent in 2008 to 53 percent in 2009. The county declined from 12th to 13th on this measure.

Union did post some improvements, however, with an increase in 4th graders passing state tests and a drop in juvenile arrests.

"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."

"More Union County families were struggling financially and that doesn't bode well for children," Zalkind said. "However, the decline in juvenile arrests and rise in 4th grade test scores are positive signs."

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Some key Union County findings follow.

Child Poverty. Union's child poverty rate rose from 12 percent in 2008 to 14 percent in 2009. The county, however, held steady in the Kids Count rankings at 13th because other counties saw steeper increases in child poverty.

Juvenile Arrests. Union's juvenile arrest rate fell from 23 youth per 1,000 in 2008 to 19 in 2009, moving the county from 10th to 8th place in the Kids Count ranking.

Child Care. The county's availability of child care slipped from 677 slots per 1,000 children ages 0-4 in 2009 to 641 in 2010. The county dropped from 7th to 9th on this measure.

Education. Union County 4th graders improved their pass rates on state tests from 72 percent in 2008-09 to 75 percent in 2009-10, moving the county from 15th to 13th on this indicator.

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.