2012

NEW JERSEY Kids Count

The State of Our Children

kids count

for ADVOCATES CHILDREN OF NEW JERSEY

Giving Every Child A Chance

NEW JERSEY Kids Count 2012

The State of Our Children

Advocates for Children of New Jersey
Cecilia Zalkind, *Executive Director*
Mary Coogan, *Assistant Director*

Nicole Hellriegel, *Kids Count Coordinator*
Lana Lee, *Policy Associate*
Nancy Parello, *Communications Director*
Sheldon Presser, *Senior Policy Analyst*

ACNJ Board of Trustees
Richard Trenk, *President*
Kendell Sprott, *Administrative Vice President*
Gerard Thiers, *Program Vice President*
Naim Bulbulia, *Treasurer*
Eileen Leahey, *Secretary*

John Boyne
Timothy Carden
Brenda Considine
Hendricks Davis
Louise Eagle
Maurice Elias
Vito Gagliardi
Stuart Grant
Gail Houlihan
Nancy Lauter
Yvonne Lopez
Valerie Mauriello
Margaret McLeod
Jennifer Mermans
Maria Pinho
Clare Sapienza-Eck
Robert Sterling
Charles Venti

Advocates for Children of New Jersey would like to thank each of these individuals and agencies for their help and cooperation on this project:

American Lung Association: Zach Jump
Center for the Study of Social Policy: Rachel Paletta, Kristen Weber
Horizon NJ Health: Len Kudis, Joseph Manger
NJ Dental Association: Eric Elmore
NJ Department of Agriculture: Janet Hawk
NJ Department of Children and Families: Bonny Fraser
NJ Department of Community Affairs: Miguel Gonzalez
NJ Department of Education: Bari Erlichson, Karin Garver, Shannon Tootell
NJ Department of Health and Senior Services: Jay Duco, Patrick Dwyer, Darrin Goldman, Donna Leusner, Joseph Pargola
NJ Department of Human Services: Nicole Brossoie, Virginia Kelly, Willi E. Zahn
NJ Department of Treasury: Andy Pratt, Mario Zapicchi
NJ Juvenile Justice Commission: Jennifer LeBaron
Population Reference Bureau: Jean D'Amico, Genevieve Dupuis
U.S. Internal Revenue Service: Deborah Chapman

Special thanks to the Annie E. Casey Foundation for its technical and financial support.

Additional support provided by:
Novartis and Investors Bank

For more information or to view other Kids Count data online, visit **www.acnj.org**

Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/acnjforkids
Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/acnjforkids

35 Halsey Street
Newark, NJ 07102

(973) 643-3876
(973) 643-9153 (fax)

advocates@acnj.org

Advocates for Children of New Jersey is the trusted, independent voice putting children's needs first for more than 30 years. Our work results in better laws and policies, more effective funding and stronger services for children and families. And it means that more children are given the chance to grow up safe, healthy and educated.

Advocates for Children of New Jersey © 2012

What is Kids Count?

Kids Count is a national project funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, a private charitable organization dedicated to helping build better futures for disadvantaged children in the United States.

The Kids Count project tracks the status of children across the United States on both the state and national levels.

In New Jersey, Advocates for Children of New Jersey manages **New Jersey Kids Count.** The project's major goal is to provide policymakers, advocates and the public with meaningful, reliable and timely data about the well-being of New Jersey children to help inform decisions and drive change.

In addition to the state **Kids Count** report, ACNJ also publishes county-level data in its **Kids Count Pocket Guide** and county profiles issued each year. Kids Count data are also available online at the interactive **Kids Count Data Center, www.datacenter.kidscount.org.** The site enables users to access data over multiple years, create charts, graphs and maps and compare New Jersey to other states.

Questions? Contact Nicole Hellriegel, Kids Count coordinator, at nhellriegel@acnj.org.

kids count

for ADVOCATES CHILDREN OF NEW JERSEY

Giving Every Child A Chance

Table of Contents

Introduction 3

Section 1: The State of Children and Families 5
Demographics 6
Births 6
Family Structure 6
Child Population by Race/Ethnicity 6

Section 2: The State of Family Economics 7
Median Family Income 8
Children in Families That Are Poor or Low-Income 8
Federal Poverty Level 9
Family Supports 9
Family Poverty 9
Housing 10
Food Security 10
School Nutrition 11
Earned Income Tax Credit 11

Section 3: The State of Early Care and Education 12
Early Childhood Education 13
Child Care 13
K-12 Enrollment 14
Special Education Enrollment 14
Student Performance on State Assessment Tests 15
School Violence/Substance Abuse 18
High School Graduation Rates and SATs 19
Post-Graduation Plans of High School Seniors 19
Highest Level of Education Completed 19

Section 4: The State of Child Health 20
Uninsured Children 21
Low-Income Uninsured Children 21
Medicaid and NJ FamilyCare 22
Healthy Starts 22
Infant and Child Deaths 23
Preventing Childhood Illnesses 23
Children Living with HIV/AIDS 23
Asthma 23
Children with Special Health Care Needs 24
Oral Health 25

Table of Contents

Section 5: The State of Child Protection 26
Children Under State Supervision 27
Children Entering and Exiting Out-of-Home Placement 27
Referrals and Investigations 27
Abused and Neglected Children 27
Children in Out-of-Home Placement 28
Safety in Foster Care 28
Abuse and Neglect After Reunification with Family 28
Adoptions 28
Kinship Legal Guardianship 29
Older Youth Under State Supervision 29

Section 6: The State of Teens and Young Adults 30
Youth in Poverty 31
Idle Youth 31
Young Adults and Health Insurance 31
Teen Births 32
Juvenile Justice 32
Sexually-Transmitted Infections 33
Teen Deaths 33

Section 7: The State of Immigrant Families 34
Foreign-Born Children 35
Children in Immigrant Families 35
Citizenship Status 35
Language Among Children in Immigrant Families 35
Immigrant Workers and Their Families 36

Data Sources and Technical Notes 37

Introduction

Each year, Advocates for Children of New Jersey publishes this statewide picture of child well-being, tracking progress and challenges in many critical areas — poverty, health, education, child protection and juvenile justice.

And each year, we see different trends in different areas. But what seems most striking this year is the persistent and pervasive evidence that more and more families struggle economically.

They are families from all walks of life. They are from our cities, our suburbs and our rural areas. They are young adults who can't find a job. They are U.S.-born children living in immigrant families.

And, increasingly, they are working parents who are new to the cold realities of poverty — people who have lost their jobs during the recession and who face an economy that has fundamentally shifted. No longer is a full-time job with a steady paycheck, health insurance and retirement benefits the norm. For many of these families, the struggle back to solid financial ground will likely be long and painful.

And their children will suffer. This poverty infects all the areas of child well-being documented in this report. Children in poor families are less likely to succeed in school. They are more likely to suffer from health problems because they lack medical coverage. High school graduation is not a given for these children, nor is going to college and landing a decent job.

It is also true that supports to these struggling families have been eroded at a time when they are most needed. Cuts to child care, tax credits and health insurance for low-income parents have frayed the safety net, even as more families need that leg up.

So while we work toward achieving our economic recovery and debate our state's investments, we must remember that the numbers in this report tell a compelling and sobering story — more and more families lack the resources to successfully raise their children.

We must also remember that behind every number are real children, real families and real lives that hang in the balance. If our state is in the midst of a comeback — and we all hope that it is — then surely children must be at the beginning of the line to benefit from this renewed economic prosperity.

Cecilia Zalkind
Executive Director

Richard Trenk
President, Board of Trustees

A Picture of Pervasive Poverty

In 2010...

- Nearly one-third of all New Jersey children — 619,000 — lived in low-income families.
- The percent of children living in a family where no parent had full-time employment increased to 27 percent.
- Hungry New Jersey households rose an alarming 56 percent since 2004-06, coupled with a steep 76 percent jump in the number of children receiving food stamps.
- The number of children eligible for free school meals rose 26 percent.
- Sixteen percent of all young adults, ages 18 through 24, lived in poverty, up 33 percent since 2006.
- The percentage of immigrant children living in poor families has increased 23 percent since 2006.
- Nearly half — 45 percent — of immigrant single mother householders with children under age 5 had incomes below the federal poverty level.

Join Us to Make a Difference for Kids!

Advocates for Children of New Jersey is the state's leading non-profit, non-partisan child research and action organization. When you join our network of advocates, you can make a real-life difference for thousands of children across New Jersey.

Stay connected with ACNJ…

Sign up for our e-alerts at www.acnj.org.
Friend us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/acnjforkids.
Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/acnjforkids.

I The State of Children and Families

Children comprised roughly one-quarter of the more than 8.8 million people who lived in New Jersey in 2010. As the state's total population continues to slowly rise, up 2 percent from 2006, New Jersey's child population continues to decrease, with the number of children under 18 declining 2 percent and children under age 5 dropping 3 percent during this same time. Similarly, births in the state also saw a small decrease from 2004 to 2008. New Jersey was home to about 2 million children in 2010.

In 2010, more than 329,000 families, or 30 percent of all families, were headed by one parent, up slightly from 29 percent in 2006. Family dynamics continue to change in other ways across the state. In 2010, there were 5 percent fewer grandparents raising their grandchildren, compared to 2006.

Demographics

	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06 - 10
Total Population	8,661,679	8,755,602	8,801,624	2
Child Population Under 18	2,107,251	2,069,591	2,063,520	-2
Child Population Under 5	556,547	541,803	540,428	-3

The State of Children and Families

Births

	2004	2007	2008	% Change 04-08
Total Births	114,443	115,920	112,428	-2

Family Structure

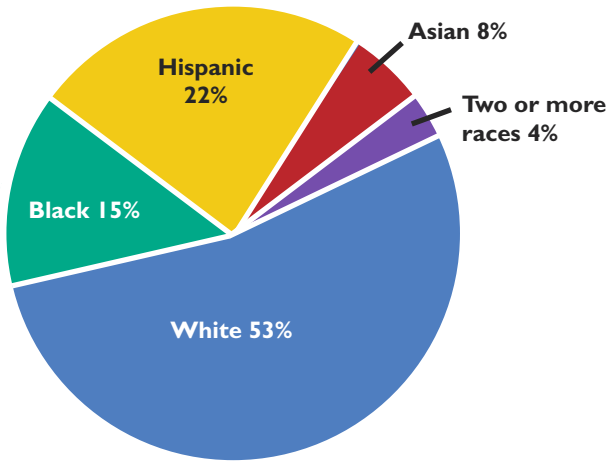
	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06-10
Families Headed by One Parent	329,198	330,773	329,184	0
Percentage of Families Headed by One Parent	29	30	30	3
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren	53,859	50,138	51,189	-5

Child Population by Race (%)*

	2005	2008	2009	% Change 05-09
White	57	54	53	-6
Black	16	15	15	-5
Hispanic	19	21	22	16
Asian	7	8	8	16
Two or More Races	3	4	4	41
Percentages exceed 100%, as some survey participants reported multiple race categories.				

**Please note that updated 2010 data were not available.*

Child Population by Race, 2009



2 The State of Family Economics

The economic picture for children and families across New Jersey has worsened, as the number of parents without full-time employment rose and the number of children living in families with good incomes declined. In 2010, nearly one-third of all children, or 619,000, lived in a low-income household, an increase of 14 percent since 2006.

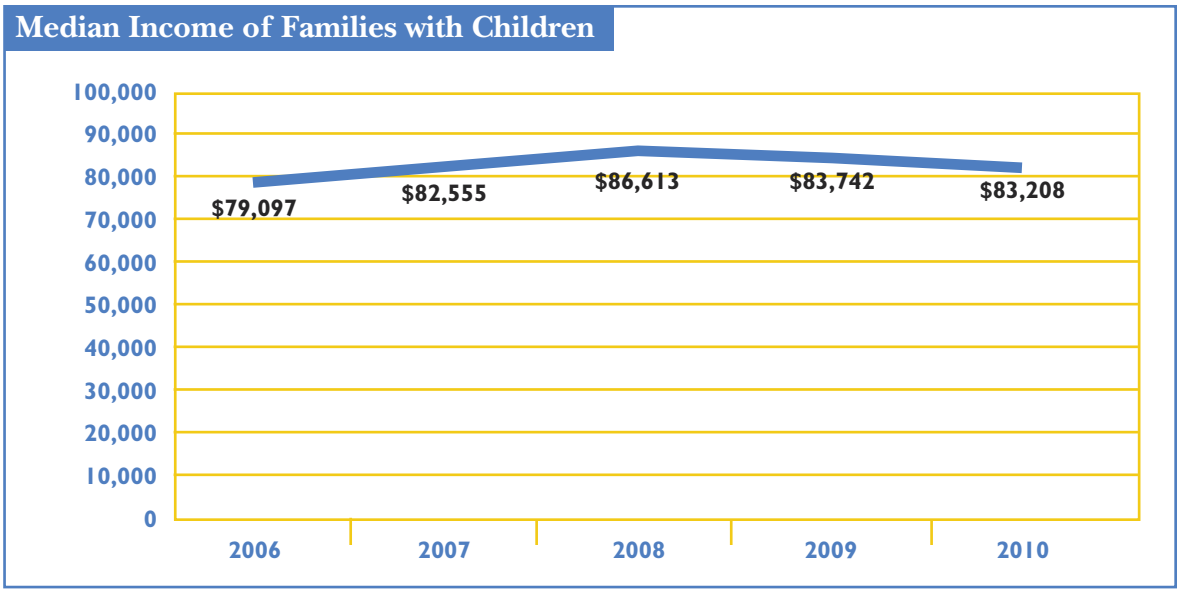
The number of children living in a family where no parent had regular, full-time, year-round employment increased to 27 percent in 2010, up from 25 percent in 2009.

While families are earning less, they are spending more of their income on rent. In 2010, an overwhelming 84 percent of all low-income families with children spent too much on housing costs, leaving less for other essentials, such as food and clothing. Consequently, the number of New Jersey households without enough food rose an alarming 56 percent since 2004–06. The state also saw a 76 percent increase in the number of children living in families receiving food stamps. More than 368,000 children received food stamps in 2011.

Not surprisingly, the number of children eligible for either free- or reduced-price school meals climbed 20 percent from the 2006–07 to 2010–11 school years, to almost 450,000 school-age children. Although New Jersey schools provide free- or reduced-price school lunch to 81 percent of eligible children, school districts largely failed to provide these same eligible children with a healthy start to their day.

During the 2010–11 school year, only 30 percent of all eligible children received free- or reduced-price school breakfast. The number of children participating in school breakfast, however, has increased 6 percent in recent years, reflecting a growing recognition of the importance of ensuring that children have a healthy meal at the start of their school day.

2 The State of Family Economics



Children in Families that are Poor or Low-Income

	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06-10
Children below 50% of the poverty level	111,000	121,000	131,000	18
Percentage of children below 50% of the poverty level	5	6	6	20
Children below 100% of the poverty level	244,000	273,000	295,000	21
Percentage of children below 100% of the poverty level	12	13	14	17
Children below 150% of the poverty level	394,000	435,000	459,000	16
Percentage of children below 150% of the poverty level	19	21	23	21
Children below 200% of the poverty level, the level defined as low-income	543,000	591,000	619,000	14
Percentage of children below 200% of the poverty level	26	29	30	15
Children between 200-299% of the poverty level	311,811	278,051	284,209	-9
Percentage of children between 200-299% of the poverty level	15	14	14	-7
Children between 300-399% of the poverty level	289,817	270,102	253,191	-13
Percentage of children between 300-399% of the poverty level	14	13	12	-14

Note: For a family of four in 2010, 50% of the poverty level was $11,025, 100% was $22,050, 150% was $33,075 and 200% was $44,100.

2 The State of Family Economics

Family Economics (%), NJ vs. US, 2010

	NJ	US
Children in families below 200% of the poverty level	30	44
Children in families below 100% of the poverty level	14	22
Single-parent families below 100% of the poverty level	30	36
Female-headed households receiving child support, 2009	28	31

Family Poverty

	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06-10
Single parents below poverty level	78,000	87,000	97,000	24
Percentage of single parents below poverty level	24	27	30	25
Children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment*	N/A	518,000	567,000	N/A
Percentage of children in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment*	N/A	25	27	N/A

**Due to a change in wording in the Census question, data prior to 2008 are not comparable.*

Housing Costs for Low-Income Families, NJ vs. US, 2006-2010

	2006		2009		2010		% Change 06-10	
	NJ	US	NJ	US	NJ	US	NJ	US
Children in low-income families where housing costs exceed 30% of income	433,000	18,951,000	482,000	20,452,000	517,000	21,440,000	19	13
Percentage of children living in low-income families where housing costs exceed 30% of income	80	66	82	67	84	67	5	2
Children living in crowded housing	193,000	9,606,000	229,000	9,946,000	248,000	10,566,000	28	10
Percentage of children living in crowded housing	9	13	11	13	12	14	33	8

2 The State of Family Economics

Temporary Aid for Needy Families

	2007	2010	2011	% Change 07-11
Children living in families receiving welfare (TANF)	66,976	67,632	70,831	6

Percentage of Households Without Enough Food, NJ vs. US

	2004-06	2005-07	2006-08	2007-09	2008-10	% Change 04-06 to 08-10
NJ	8	9	10	12	12	56
US	11	11	12	14	15	33

Food for Needy Families

	2007	2010	2011	% Change 07-11
Children receiving food stamps (SNAP)	208,790	317,819	368,173	76
Women, infants and children receiving nutritional supports (WIC)	166,890	189,116	186,247	12

Average Monthly Food Stamps Benefit per Recipient

2006	2009	2010	% Change 06-10
$93.64	$125.06	$138.03	47

Participation Rate of Eligible NJ Residents in Food Stamp Program

	2004	2007	2008	% Change 04-08
Participation rate of food stamp-eligible persons in NJ	50%	59%	54%	8
New Jersey Food Stamp Participation, State Rank	48	41	47	N/A

2 The State of Family Economics

School Meals

	2006-07	2009-10	2010-11	% Change 07-11
Children eligible for reduced-price school meals	77,983	86,152	74,687	-4
Children eligible for free school meals	295,971	358,912	372,605	26
Total children eligible for free- or reduced-price school meals	373,954	445,064	447,292	20
				% Change 10-11
Children receiving reduced-price breakfast	N/A	13,975	12,520	-10
Children receiving free breakfast	N/A	113,964	123,293	8
Total children receiving free- or reduced-price school breakfast	N/A	127,939	135,813	6
School breakfast participation rates	N/A	29	30	4
Children receiving reduced-price lunch	N/A	59,381	51,530	-13
Children receiving free lunch	N/A	287,129	311,732	9
Total children receiving free- or reduced-price school lunch	N/A	346,510	363,262	5
School lunch participation rates	N/A	78	81	4

Tax Credits

	2008	2009	2010	% Change 08-10
State Earned Income Tax Credits claims, all recipients	488,244	525,469	484,751	-1
Average state EITC claim, all recipients	$458	$544	$449	-2
State Earned Income Tax Credit claims, recipients with at least one dependant	375,149	400,966	382,095	2
Average state EITC claim, recipients with at least one dependant	$561	$671	$543	-3
	2005	2008	2009	% Change 05-09
Federal Earned Income Tax Credit claims	498,013	505,607	561,644	13
Average Federal EITC claim	$1,921	$2,020	$2,101	9

Child Support

	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06-10
Total open cases	359,530	357,925	384,850	7
Percentage of cases with support orders	82	83	81	-1
Child support collection rates	66	64	65	-2
Cost effectiveness of collections	$4.56	$3.85	$4.37	-4

3 The State of Early Care and Education

New Jersey continues to be a national leader in early childhood education, with rising preschool enrollments, more children attending full-day kindergarten and a lower percentage of children not attending an early learning program, when compared to national averages.

In the 2010–11 school year, New Jersey's public preschool enrollment increased 4 percent to 51,000 children, with more children attending a full-day preschool. Although total public kindergarten enrollment decreased slightly in 2010–11, 8 percent more children attended a full-day program and 23 percent less children attended half-day kindergarten.

In 2010, 28 percent of New Jersey children, ages three to five, were not enrolled in nursery school, preschool or kindergarten, compared to a national average of 40 percent.

Total public school enrollment dropped slightly — 2 percent from 2006–07 to 2010–11. At the same time, the number of students, ages six to 21, receiving special education services declined 8 percent. In the 2010–11 school year, special education students comprised 15 percent of the total student population.

Low-income children continued to score lower on state tests compared to their wealthier peers. Pass rates dropped dramatically for all students after the state changed the 3rd and 4th grade tests in 2008–09, but began to inch up slightly last year for most subjects and student populations. The graduation rate remained the same from 2005 to 2009, with 85 percent of students graduating on-time from high school. This is higher than the national average of 76 percent.

3 The State of Early Care and Education

In 2010, 85 percent of New Jersey high school seniors reported that they planned to attend college. The majority — 54 percent — were headed to a 4-year school. Although the percentage of students taking the SATs declined 7 percent since 2006, New Jersey still outperformed the nation in the number of students taking the test. In 2010, 76 percent of New Jersey students took the SATs, compared to 47 percent nationally.

Public Preschool Enrollments

	2006-07	2009-10	2010-11	% Change 07-11
Preschool enrollments (total)	49,166	49,940	51,333	4
Half-day preschool enrollments	9,178	5,152	5,425	-41
Full-day preschool enrollments	39,988	44,788	45,908	15

Early Education

	2007		2009		2010		% Change 07-10	
	NJ	US	NJ	US	NJ	US	NJ	US
Percentage of children not enrolled in nursery school, preschool or kindergarten, ages 3 - 5	28	41	26	40	28	40	0	-2

Head Start*

	2005	2008	2009	% Change 05-09
Children enrolled in Head Start	14,717	14,850	14,848	1

**Please note that updated 2010 data were not available.*

Child Care

	2007	2010*	2011	% Change 07-11
Licensed child care centers	4,334	4,209	4,213	-3
Capacity of licensed child care centers	338,783	353,706	356,900	5

**2010 data are as of June.*

Child Care Waiting List

	2008	2011	2012	% Change 08-12
Number of children on waiting list for child care vouchers	2,576	8,058	10,472	307

3 The State of Early Care and Education

Registered Family Child Care Providers

	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06-10
	3,150	2,938	2,892	-8

Public Kindergarten Enrollments

	2006-07	2009-10	2010-11	% Change 07-11
Kindergarten enrollments (total)	92,934	94,917	90,663	-2
Half-day kindergarten enrollments	31,782	26,673	24,334	-23
Full-day kindergarten enrollments	61,152	68,244	66,329	8

Public School Enrollment

	2006-07	2009-10	2010-11	% Change 07-11
Total enrollment (K-12)	1,387,963	1,383,706	1,357,382	-2

Public School Special Education Enrollment

	2006-07	2009-10	2010-11	% Change 07-11
Total enrollment, K - 12	1,387,963	1,383,706	1,357,382	-2
Special education enrollment, ages 3 -5	18,224	16,423	17,073	-6
Special Education enrollment, ages 6 - 21	215,539	197,582	199,205	-8
Percent special education students, ages 6 - 21	16	14	15	-5

Homeless Students

	2008-09	2009-10	% Change 09 - 10
Number of homeless students	6,397	5,254	-18

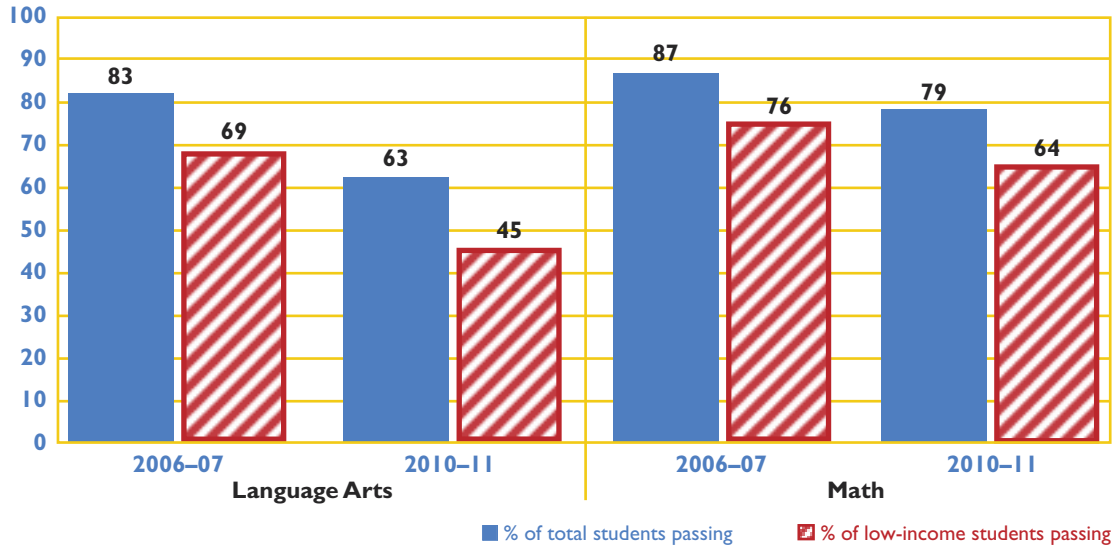
3 The State of Early Care and Education

Percentage of Students Passing 3rd Grade Tests

	2006-07	2009-10	2010-11	% Change 07-11
Language Arts	83	60	63	-24
Language Arts (limited English proficient)	61	33	36	-41
Language Arts (low-income)	69	40	45	-35
Math	87	78	79	-9
Math (limited English proficient)	72	57	57	-21
Math (low-income)	76	63	64	-16

**In the 2008-09 school year, the Department of Education changed the language arts and math tests for this grade.*

Low-income Student Performance on NJ Tests Compared to Total State Average, 3rd Grade

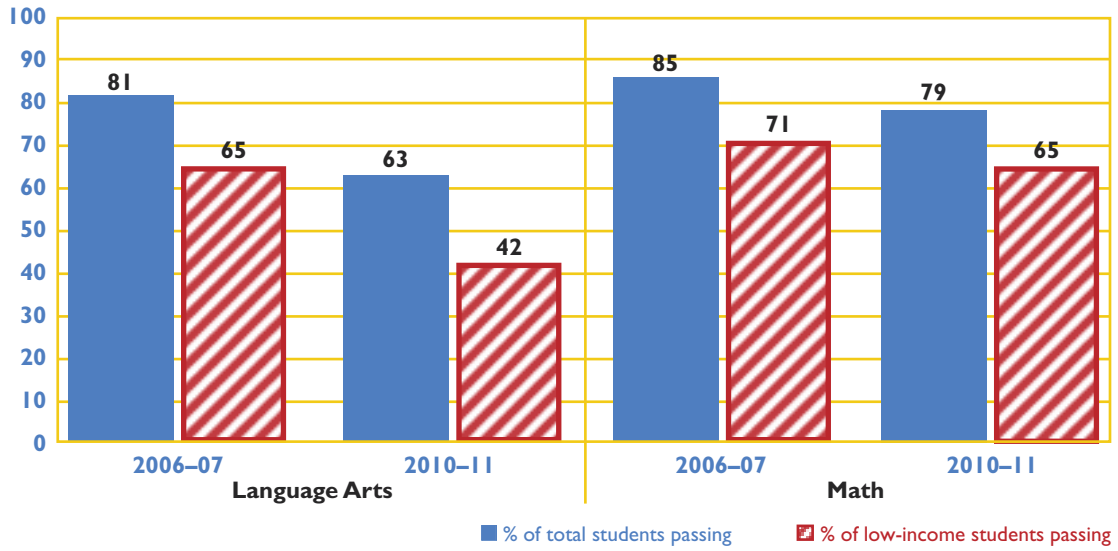


Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests

	2006-07	2009-10	2010-11	% Change 07-11
Language Arts	81	60	63	-22
Language Arts (limited English proficient)	53	28	32	-40
Language Arts (low-income)	65	38	42	-35
Math	85	77	79	-7
Math (limited English proficient)	62	54	57	-8
Math (low-income)	71	62	65	-8
Science	83	93	90	8
Science (limited English proficient)	50	78	66	32
Science (low-income)	66	87	80	21

**In the 2008-09 school year, the Department of Education changed the language arts and math tests for this grade.*

Low-income Student Performance on NJ Tests Compared to Total State Average, 4th Grade



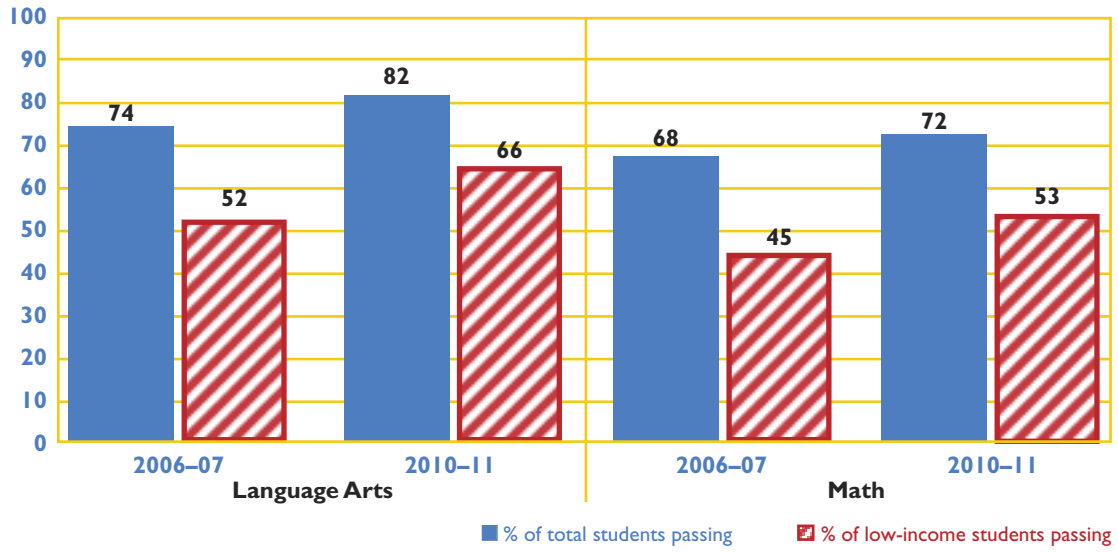
3 The State of Early Care and Education

Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests

	2006-07	2009-10	2010-11	% Change 07-11
Language Arts	74	83	82	11
Language Arts (limited English proficient)	27	39	38	41
Language Arts (low-income)	52	66	66	27
Math	68	69	72	6
Math (limited English proficient)	31	36	35	13
Math (low-income)	45	49	53	18
Science	79	83	81	3
Science (limited English proficient)	34	42	39	15
Science (low-income)	57	66	65	14

**In the 2007-08 school year, the Department of Education changed the testing standard for this grade.*

Low-income Student Performance on NJ Tests Compared to Total State Average, 8th Grade

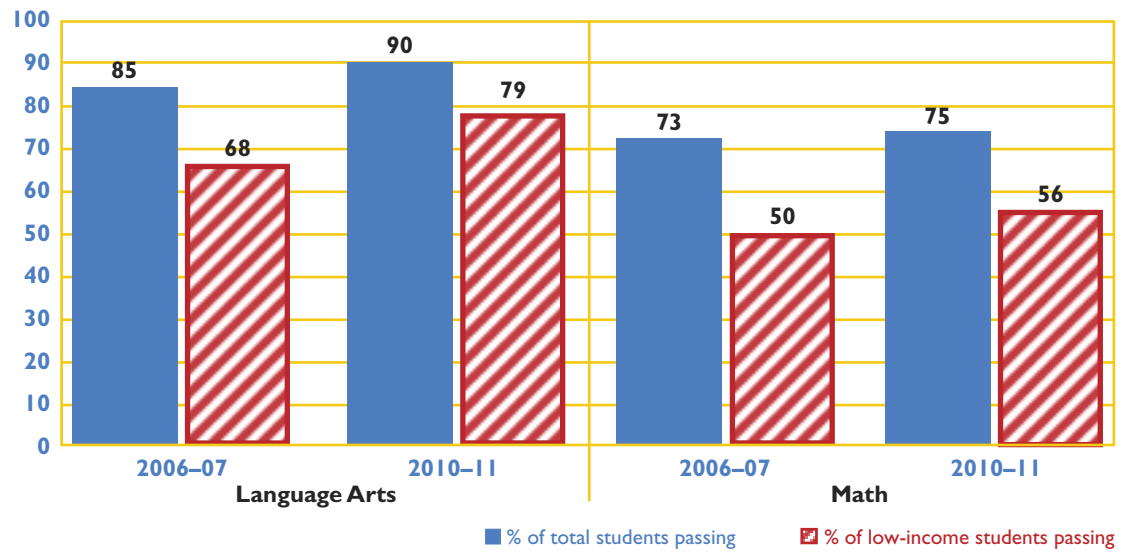


3 The State of Early Care and Education

Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests

	2006-07	2009-10	2010-11	% Change 07-11
Language Arts	85	87	90	6
Language Arts (limited English proficient)	32	35	42	31
Language Arts (low-income)	68	73	79	16
Math	73	74	75	3
Math (limited English proficient)	33	33	36	9
Math (low-income)	50	54	56	12

Low-income Student Performance on NJ Tests Compared to Total State Average, 11th Grade



Achievement Gap, K-12

	2006-07	2009-10	2010-11	% Change 07-11
Achievement Gap	24%	26%	26%	8%

Note: This is the percentage gap between economically disadvantaged and non-economically disadvantaged students passing state tests for all grade levels and all tests.

School Violence Incidents

2005–06				2009–10				% Change 06–10			
Violence	Vandalism	Weapons	Substances	Violence	Vandalism	Weapons	Substances	Violence	Vandalism	Weapons	Substances
11,166	3,809	1,430	2,647	10,407	2,307	1,082	3,427	-7	-39	-24	29

3 The State of Early Care and Education

Students Taking SATs

	2005-06	2008-09	2009-10	% Change 06-10
Percentage of students taking the SAT	82	76	76	-7
Average SAT math score	515	513	514	0
Average SAT verbal score	496	496	495	0

Graduation Rates

	2004-05	2007-08	2008-09	% Change 05-09
On-time graduation rate	85	85	85	0

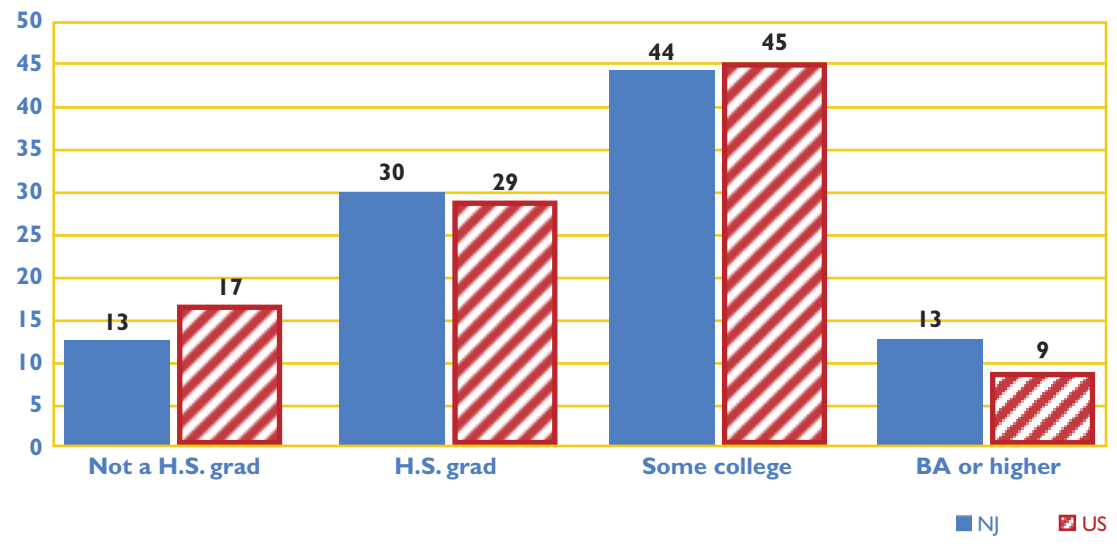
Public Education: NJ vs. US

	NJ	US
Average freshman graduation rate, 2008-09	85	76
Percent of students taking the SAT, 2009-10	76	47
Average SAT verbal score, 2009-10	495	501
Average SAT math score, 2009-10	514	516

Post-Graduation Plans of New Jersey High School Seniors, 2008–09, Percentage

4-year-college	2-year-college	Other college	Post-secondary	Employment	Other/Unknown	Military	Undecided
54	30	1	2	5	1	2	5

Highest Level of Education Completed in 2010, 18–24 Year Olds, Percentage



4 The State of Child Health

While some health measures for New Jersey's children showed mixed results, many areas showed improvement.

Health insurance is perhaps one of the most positive examples of how a collective, statewide effort to address a problem produces results. Both the number and percentage of New Jersey children without health insurance have substantially declined since 2006, dropping 32 and 31 percent, respectively. The majority of New Jersey's 188,000 uninsured children — 53 percent in 2010 — lived in low-income families.

The drop in uninsured children corresponds with a 26 percent increase in the number of children receiving health coverage through NJ FamilyCare and Medicaid, the state's free- or reduced-cost health coverage program. More children have also been enrolled in NJ FamilyCare Advantage, currently the only insurance program available to children in families who are not eligible for NJ FamilyCare.

Healthy teeth and proper dental care are important factors in the overall health of children. Efforts to improve oral health for children appear to be paying off, with more children receiving dental services than ever before.

The number of eligible children receiving any dental services through NJ FamilyCare and Medicaid increased 86 percent, while preventative dental care increased 99 percent. The percentage of children ages three and older who were in an out-of-home placement through New Jersey's child protection system and who received semi-annual dental exams also increased an astounding 170 percent, from just 33 percent in 2007 to 89 percent in 2011.

More New Jersey children also received free dental care through the Give Kids a Smile program, a day when dental professionals across the country volunteer their time and service. In 2012, 112 New Jersey locations provided free dental care to 4,602 children through this program.

Other areas of positive improvement include decreases in the numbers of infant and child deaths, a sharp decline in the amount of children testing positive for lead poisoning and decreases in the number of children living with and admitted to the hospital for asthma.

Not all areas showed positive results. The percentage of children who received all of their recommended immunizations by their 2nd birthday dropped 12 percent, from 77 percent in 2006 to 68 percent in 2010.

In 2008, 34 percent of all births in New Jersey were to an unmarried woman, an increase of 15 percent since 2004. During the same time, the number of women who received early prenatal care declined slightly, although the percentage remained the same, with white and Asian women more likely to receive early prenatal care than their black and Hispanic counterparts.

Uninsured Children

	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06-10
Children without health insurance	277,000	190,000	188,000	-32
Percentage of children without health insurance	13	9	9	-31

Low-Income Uninsured Children

	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06-10
Number	150,000	109,000	100,000	-33
Percentage of children without health insurance who are low-income	54	57	53	-2

NJ vs. US Uninsured Children, 2009 (%)

	NJ	US
All Children	9	10
By Income		
0-99% of the poverty level	17	15
100-124% of the poverty level	22	16
125-149% of the poverty level	16	15
150-174% of the poverty level	19	14
175-199% of the poverty level	7	13
200-249% of the poverty level	15	11

4 The State of Child Health

Health Insurance

	2007	2010	2011	% Change 07-11
Children Receiving NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid	548,236	657,443	690,055	26
Children Receiving NJ FamilyCare Advantage*	N/A	500	809	N/A

**Please note that NJ FamilyCare Advantage started enrolling children in January 2008, so prior data are not applicable.*

Healthy Starts

	2004	2007	2008	% Change 04-08
Total births	114,443	115,920	112,428	-2
Low-birthweight babies	9,157	9,510	9,093	-1
Percentage of low-birthweight babies	8	8	8	0
Women receiving early prenatal care	86,703	85,888	84,970	-2
Percentage of women receiving early prenatal care	76	74	76	0
Births to unmarried mothers	34,087	39,180	38,658	13
Percentage of births to unmarried mothers	30	34	34	15

Percentage of Mothers Receiving 1st Trimester Prenatal Care, by Race

	2004	2007	2008	% Change 04-08
White, non-Hispanic	87	86	86	-1
Black	62	61	64	3
Hispanic	66	66	69	4
Asian	85	85	86	2

Percentage of Low-Birthweight Babies by Race/Ethnicity of Mother

	2004	2007	2008	% Change 04-08
White	7.2	7.4	7.3	1
Black	13.7	13.4	13.0	-5
Hispanic	7.2	7.5	7.5	5
Asian	8.0	8.3	8.3	5
Other	12.9	11.2	10.1	-22

4 The State of Child Health

Infant and Child Deaths

	2004	2007	2008*	% Change 04-08
Infant mortality	648	590	626	-3
Infant mortality rate/1,000 live births	5.7	5.1	5.6	-2
Child deaths, ages 1- 14	228	218	192	-16
Child death rate/100,000 children	13.8	13.7	12.2	-12

**Data for 2008 are preliminary.*

Preventing Childhood Illness

	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06-10
Percentage of children immunized by age 2	77	72	68	-12
Children tested for lead (0-16)	200,581	207,006	211,300	5
Children with high levels of lead	3,653	1,560	1,358	-63
Percentage of children with high levels of lead	2	1	1	-65

Children Living with HIV/AIDS

2007	2010	2011	% Change 07-11
790	790	790	0

Children Admitted to the Hospital for Asthma

	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06-10
Asthma admissions to the hospital	4,925	4,774	4,175	-15

Children Living with Asthma, NJ

2005	2008	2009	% Change 05-09
192,400	192,753	186,131	-3

Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN), NJ vs. US, 2010, %

	NJ	US
Children who have special health care needs	14	15
CSHCN whose conditions affect their activities usually, always, or a great deal	25	27
CSHCN with 11 or more days of school absence due to illness	16	16
CSHCN with any unmet need for specific health care services	19	24
CSHCN with any unmet need for family support services	7	7
CSHCN needing a referral who have difficulty getting it	24	23
CSHCN without a usual source of care when sick (or who rely on the emergency room)	10	10
CSHCN without any personal doctor or nurse	7	7
CSHCN without family-centered care	36	35
CSHCN whose families pay $1,000 or more out of pocket in medical expenses per year for the child	30	22
CSHCN whose conditions cause financial problems for the family	20	22
CSHCN whose families spend 11 or more hours per week providing or coordinating child's health care	11	13
CSHCN whose conditions cause family members to cut back or stop working	25	25
CSHCN whose families are partners in shared decision-making for child's optimal health	69	70
CSHCN who receive coordinated, ongoing, comprehensive care within a medical home	38	43
CSHCN whose families have adequate private and/or public insurance to pay for the services they need	55	61
CSHCN who are screened early and continuously for special health care needs	84	79
CSHCN who can easily access community-based services	62	65
Youth with special health care needs who receive the services necessary to make appropriate transitions to adult health care, work, and independence	42	40

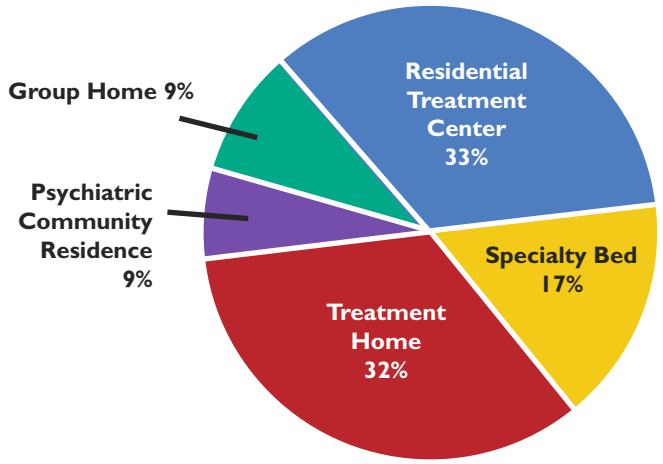
Photos courtesy of The Phoenix Center, Nutley, NJ

Division of Child Behavioral Health Services (DCBHS) Enrollment

	2006	2010	2011	% Change 06-11
Children receiving managed mental/behavioral health services	7,327	8,819	8,016	9

**Includes children receiving care management through the state DCBHS via Care Management Organizations (CMOs), Youth Case Management programs (YCMs) and Unified Case Management (UCMs).*

DCBHS Type of Out-of-Home Placement, 2011, %



Dental Treatment for Children Enrolled in NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid*

	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06-10
Eligible children receiving any dental services	151,026	241,287	281,056	86
Eligible children receiving preventive dental services	123,311	209,053	245,064	99
Eligible children receiving dental treatment services	88,833	131,588	149,096	68

**Please note that data include children and youth 0-20 years of age.*

Dental Care for Children in Out-of-Home Placement

	2007	2010	2011	% Change 07 - 11
Percentage of children ages 3 and older who were in care 6 months or more and who received semi-annual dental exams	33	85	89	170

Give Kids a Smile*

	2009	2011	2012	% Change 09-12
Number of participating locations in NJ	83	105	112	35
Number of NJ children served	3,759	3,597	4,602	22

**Give Kids a Smile is a national day for children where dental professionals volunteer their time and services to provide free dental care.*

5 The State of Child Protection

The number of children in foster care dropped a significant 32 percent between 2007 and 2011. At the same time, there was a 5 percent increase in the number of children receiving services in their own home from the state Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS). In 2011, nearly 49,000 children received services from DYFS — a 2 percent decrease when compared to 2007.

While the number of referrals to DYFS for non-abuse related assistance decreased slightly between 2006 and 2010, the number of children who were the subject of an abuse/neglect investigation rose a sharp 30 percent during that same time. In just one year, from 2009 to 2010, the number of investigations increased from 55,192 to 70,135.

The vast majority of those investigations — 90 percent in 2010 — conclude that no abuse or neglect had occurred. The percentage of "substantiated" investigations decreased 23 percent from 2006 to 2010.

Of all youth under DYFS supervision, 23 percent were between the ages of 13 and 17 in 2011, dropping from 28 percent in 2007. Despite this, there has been an increase of older youth between the ages of 18 and 21 remaining under the supervision of the state's child welfare agency. In 2007, 1,436 youth in this age range were under DYFS supervision. This number climbed 47 percent to 2,115 youth in 2011.

5 The State of Child Protection

Children Under State Child Protection Supervision

	2007	2010	2011	% Change 07-11
All children under state supervision*	50,111	44,399	48,874	-2
Children in out-of-home placement	10,432	7,537	7,135	-32
Children receiving in-home services	39,679	36,862	41,739	5

**Includes children being supervised in their own homes, as well as those in out-of-home placement.*

Children Entering and Exiting Out-of-Home Care Through DYFS

	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06-10
Entering Care	6,677	5,181	4,926	-26
Exiting Care	7,409	6,039	5,600	-24

Referrals and Investigations

	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06-10
Investigations for child abuse/neglect	53,819	55,192	70,135	30
Referrals for family services	12,015	11,086	11,655	-3

Child Abuse/Neglect Substantiations

	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06-10
Number of children where abuse/neglect has been substantiated	11,038	9,286	9,326	-16
Percentage of children where abuse/neglect has been substantiated	13	10	10	-23

Children Found to be Abused or Neglected After Prior Report of Abuse or Neglect

	2005		2008		2009		% Change 05-09	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
After previous unsubstantiated report, w/in 6 months	1,479	3.2	1,160	1.9	1,356	2.0	-8	-38
After previous unsubstantiated report, w/in 12 months	2,433	5.3	1,883	3.1	2,293	3.4	-6	-36
After previous substantiated report, w/in 6 months	378	5.9	184	3.7	209	4.2	-45	-29
After previous substantiated report, w/in 12 months	470	7.3	251	5.1	278	5.6	-41	-23

5 The State of Child Protection

Repeat Child Abuse/Neglect

	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06-10
Percentage of children who were not victims of repeat child abuse/neglect	93.9	94.4	94.3	0

Children in Out-of-Home Care, By Type of Placement

	2007	2010	2011	% Change 07-11
Group and residential homes	1,391	861	725	-48
Kinship foster homes	3,653	2,590	2,379	-35
Resource families (non-kin)	4,214	3,911	3,770	-11
Independent Living	207	175	144	-30
Total	9,465	7,537	7,018	-26

Children Abused/Neglected After Reunification with Family

	2005	2008	2009	% Change 05-09
Abuse/neglect within 12 months of reunification	274	177	245	-11
Percentage of children abused/neglected within 12 months of reunification	6.6	5.2	7.1	8

Foster Care Re-Entry

Exit Year	2005	2008	2009	% Change 05-09
Percentage of children who exit foster care and re-enter within 12 months	16	15	14	-13

Adoptions

	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06-10
State-finalized adoptions	1,402	1,418	1,171	-16

Children in Legal Limbo Awaiting a Permanent Home

	2007	2010	2011	% Change 07-11
Children legally free but not adopted	1,352	1,223	1,037	-23

5 The State of Child Protection

Amount of Time to Reunification for Children (%)

	2007	2009	2010	% Change 07-10
Less than 12 months	63.1	69.6	71.6	13
12 to 23 months	22.7	18.8	20.2	-11
24 to 35 months	4.7	6.1	4.0	-15
36 to 47 months	3.2	2.2	1.9	-41
48 or more months	3.8	1.9	1.6	-58

Amount of Time to Adoption for Children (%)

	2007	2009	2010	% Change 07-10
Less than 12 months	3.3	3.7	3.1	-6
12 to 23 months	16.5	22.8	21.5	30
24 to 35 months	25.9	33.6	32.0	24
36 to 47 months	22.2	22.2	21.7	-2
48 or more months	30.3	16.6	20.5	-32

Children Living in Permanent Homes with Relatives (Kinship Legal Guardianship)

	2007	2010	2011	% Change 07-11
Subsidized Kinship Legal Guardianship	2,515	2,517	2,420	-4

Older Youth Under DYFS Supervision*

	2007	2010	2011	% Change 07-11
Youth 13 - 17 under state supervision	14,628	9,216	12,164	-17
Percentage of youth under state supervision who are 13 - 17	28	25	23	-18
Youth 18 - 21 under state supervision	1,436	1,474	2,115	47
Percentage of youth under state supervision who are 18 - 21	3	4	4	33

**Youth under state supervision may or may not be in out-of-home care.*

6 The State of Teens and Young Adults

Many young adults across New Jersey continue to struggle on various fronts. In 2010, 16 percent of all young adults ages 18 through 24 were living in poverty, up 33 percent since 2006. More youth and young adults were also idle. The number of youth ages 18 to 24 who were not working, not in school and who had no degree beyond high school increased 21 percent from 2008 to 2010. The number of teens ages 16 to 19 not working and not attending school also rose 16 percent.

The number and percentage of young adults who lacked health insurance also climbed. In 2010, almost one in three young adults between the ages of 19 and 24 lacked health insurance, on par with the national average.

The number of births to teens rose slightly between 2004 and 2008, the most recent year that data are available. Six percent of all births were to a teenager in 2008, a statistic that has remained the same for many years.

There is some good news, though. The numbers of juvenile arrests, commitments and admissions to county juvenile detention facilities have all decreased from 2006 to 2010, declining 35, 43 and 42 percent, respectively. The amount of youth committing violent offenses, drug offenses, possessing weapons and committing property-related crimes all declined. Of the youth who were taken into police custody in 2010, 60 percent were referred to a juvenile court or probation department and 37 percent were handled within that police department and subsequently released.

6 The State of Teens and Young Adults

Young Adults in Poverty

	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06-10
Youth 18-24 in poverty	85,000	88,000	111,000	31
Percentage of youth 18-24 in poverty	12	13	16	33

Youth and Young Adults Who Are Idle

	2008	2009	2010	% Change 08-10
Youth 18-24 not working, not in school, and have no degree beyond high school	92,000	102,000	111,000	21
Percentage of youth 18-24 not working, not in school, and have no degree beyond high school	12	14	14	17
Teens 16-19 not working and not attending school	31,000	30,000	36,000	16
Percentage of teens 16-19 not working and not attending school	7	7	8	14

Due to a change in the 2008 American Community Survey, data prior to 2008 are not comparable.

NJ vs. US – 2010

	NJ	US
Percentage of youth 18-24 in poverty	16	26
Percentage of youth 18-24 who are not working, not in school, and have no degree beyond high school	14	17

Health Insurance

	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06-10
Youth 19 - 24 who have no health insurance	179,318	184,931	221,898	24
Percentage of youth 19 - 24 who have no health insurance	28	26	29	3

NJ vs. US, Health Insurance, 2010

	NJ	US
Number of youth 19 - 24 who lack health insurance	221,898	7,433,124
Percentage of youth 19 - 24 who lack health insurance	29	29

6 The State of Teens and Young Adults

Births to Teens

	2004	2007	2008	% Change 04-08
Births to females 10 - 19	6,968	7,319	7,006	1
Births to females 10 - 19 as a percentage of all births	6	6	6	0
Births to females 15 - 19	6,877	7,207	6,937	1
Births to females 15 - 19 as a percentage of all births	6	6	6	0
Percentage of births to females through age 19 who were already mothers	18	17	18	0

Births to Teens, NJ vs. US, 2008

	NJ	US
Birth rate for 15- to 19-year-olds per 1,000 girls in this age group	24	41
Percentage of births to females through age 19 who are already mothers	18	19

Juvenile Justice

	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06-10
Juvenile arrests	62,350	48,923	40,702	-35
Juvenile arrest rate	30	24	20	-33
Juvenile commitments to state institutions	844	581	485	-43
Admissions to juvenile county detention	9,628	6,491	5,569	-42
Average daily population in county detention as a percentage of approved capacity	66	63	55	-17
Average length of stay in county detention in days	23	28	30	30

Teen Arrests (13 - 19) by Type of Offense as Percentage of All Arrests

	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06-10
Violent offenses	26	23	21	-19
Property crimes	38	36	32	-16
Drug offenses	26	25	25	-4
Weapons possession, carrying	42	37	37	-12

Teen Arrests (13 - 19) by Type of Offense as Percentage of All Arrests, NJ vs. US, 2010

	NJ	US
Drug Offenses	25	23
Weapons	37	30
Violent Crimes	21	22
Property Crimes	32	34

Police Disposition of Juveniles Taken into Custody, 2010

	Number	%
Handled within police department and released	14,991	37.1
Referred to juvenile court or probation department	24,353	60.3
Referred to child welfare agency	319	0.8
Referred to other police agency	175	0.4
Referred to criminal or adult court	570	1.4

Sexually-Transmitted Infections

	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06-10
Males 16 - 20 diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhea or syphilis	1,769	2,427	2,793	58
Rate per 1,000 males diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhea or syphilis	6	9	9	56
Females 16 - 20 diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhea or syphilis	8,219	9,501	10,267	25
Rate per 1,000 females diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhea or syphilis	30	29	28	-7
All youth 16 - 20 diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhea or syphilis (includes youth where sex is not known)	9,988	11,935	13,108	31
Rate per 1,000 youth diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhea or syphilis	17	20	19	13

Teen Deaths

	2004	2007	2008*	% Change 04-08
Teen deaths	290	259	240	-17
Teen death rate per 100,000 teens	49	44	41	-16
Teen deaths by accident, homicide, suicide, rate per 100,000 teens	36	30	27	-25

**Data from 2008 are preliminary.*

Teen Deaths, NJ vs. US, 2008

	NJ	US
Teen death rate per 100,000 teens	41	58

7 The State of Immigrant Families

Although the percentage of New Jersey's children born outside of the country has remained the same at 6 percent, the number of children living in immigrant families has continued to rise. In 2010, 34 percent, or close to 700,000 New Jersey children lived in a family where at least one member was born in a foreign country. Of those children, 87 percent were U.S. citizens and 35 percent were living in a low-income household, up 6 percent from 2006.

While New Jersey's immigrant families may not struggle as much as immigrant families nationally, they struggle more than their U.S.-born New Jersey counterparts.

In 2010, 16 percent of New Jersey children living in immigrant families were poor, compared to 14 percent statewide. The percentage of immigrant children living in poor families has increased 23 percent since 2006. Nearly half — 45 percent — of single mother householders with children under 5 had incomes below the federal poverty level.

Immigrants in New Jersey were more than twice as likely not to graduate from high school and to earn less than $25,000 per year. In 2010, a male immigrant earned about $17,000 less per year than a U.S.-born male. Foreign-born females earned almost $11,000 less per year. Immigrants were also more likely to rent their homes and have no available vehicle.

7 The State of Immigrant Families

Foreign-born Children

	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06-10
Foreign-born children	119,596	116,077	116,910	-2
Percentage foreign-born children	6	6	6	0

Children in Immigrant Families and Citizenship

	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06-10
Children in immigrant families	644,000	667,000	696,000	8
Percentage of children in immigrant families	31	33	34	10
Children in immigrant families who are citizens	554,000	579,000	608,000	10
Percentage of children in immigrant families who are citizens	86	87	87	1

Children in Immigrant Families in Poverty

	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06-10
Number of children in immigrant families below 100% of the federal poverty level	81,000	100,000	108,000	33
Percentage of children in immigrant families below 100% of the federal poverty level	13	15	16	23
Number of children in immigrant families below 200% of the federal poverty level	213,000	241,000	245,000	15
Percentage of children in immigrant families below 200% of the federal poverty level	33	36	35	6

Children in Immigrant Families and Language

	2006	2009	2010	% Change 06-10
Children ages 5-17 in immigrant families who speak a language other than English at home*	288,516	308,611	332,225	15
% of all children in immigrant families	63	67	66	5
Children ages 5-17 in immigrant families who have no difficulty speaking English▲	438,125	444,400	482,435	10
% of all children in immigrant families	96	95	97	1

** Includes children who may or may not also speak English at home, regardless of their English proficiency.*
▲ Children who speak English exclusively or have the ability to speak English rated as "well" or "very well."

7 The State of Immigrant Families

Immigrant Workers and Their Families, 2010 (%)

	NJ US Born	NJ Foreign Born	US Foreign Born
Not a high school graduate	9	21	32
Earns less than $25,000 /year	12	26	34
Median earnings for full-time, year round male workers	$62,429	$45,242	$35,567
Median earnings for full-time, year round female workers	$48,364	$37,519	$31,161
Poor families with children under 18	11	14	17
Single-mother householder in poverty	32	40	43
Single-mother householder in poverty with children under 5	41	45	44
Owned homes	70	53	53
Rented homes	30	47	48
No vehicle available	10	16	13
No phone	2	3	3

Data Sources and Technical Notes

Section 1:
The State of Children and Families

Total population, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the US Census Bureau, Population Division. Historical data have been changed to reflect updated population estimates from the US Census Bureau. 2010 data are as of July 1, 2010.

Child population under 18, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the US Census Bureau, Population Division. Historical data have been changed to reflect updated population estimates from the US Census Bureau. 2010 data are as of July 1, 2010.

Child population under 5, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the US Census Bureau, Population Division. Historical data have been changed to reflect updated population estimates from the US Census Bureau. 2010 data are as of July 1, 2010.

Total Births, 2004, 2007, 2008. As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data.

Families headed by one parent, number and percentage, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B11005.

Grandparents raising grandchildren, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B10056.

Child population by race, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey charts B01001B, B01001F, B01001H, B01001D and B01001G.

Section 2:
The State of Family Economics

Median income of families with children, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010. As reported by the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B19125.

Children in families that are poor or low-income, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org and the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B17024.

Family Economics, NJ vs. US, 2010. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org.

Single parents below poverty level, number and percentage, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org.

Children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment, number and percentage, 2009, 2010. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org. Due to a change in wording in the US Census Bureau question, data prior to 2008 are not comparable.

Housing for low-income families, NJ vs. US, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org.

Children living in families receiving welfare (TANF), 2007, 2010, 2011. As reported by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development. The number of children living in families receiving Temporary Aid for Needy Families. Data are from June of each year.

Percentage of households without enough food, 2004-06, 2005-07, 2006-08, 2007-09, 2008-10, NJ vs. US. As reported by the Economic Research Service, US Department of Agriculture.

Children receiving food stamps (SNAP), 2007, 2010, 2011. As reported by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development. Data are from June of each year.

Women, infants and children receiving nutritional support (WIC), 2007, 2010, 2011. Number of women, infants and children receiving WIC benefits, which include health care referrals, immunizations, screenings, nutritional counseling and a monthly food stipend. Reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Division of Family Health Services, Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) for the quarter ending June 30th of each year.

Average monthly Food Stamps benefit per recipient, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the Food Research and Action Center ***State of the States*** annual reports.

Participation rate of eligible NJ residents in Food Stamp program, 2004, 2007, 2008. As reported by the Food Research and Action Center ***State of the States*** annual reports.

School Meals, 2006-07, 2009-10, 2010-11. Rates calculated using eligibility data from the NJ Department of Education and participation data from the NJ Department of Agriculture. Includes children attending traditional public schools and charter schools. Participation data prior to 2008-09 for only traditional public and charter schools were not available.

State earned income tax credit claims and average claim, 2080, 2009, 2010. Number of New Jersey taxpayers claiming a state EITC and average claim, as reported by the NJ Department of Treasury.

Data Sources and Technical Notes

Federal earned income tax credits, 2005, 2008, 2009. Number of New Jersey taxpayers claiming a federal EITC and average claim, as reported by the Internal Revenue Service.

Total open child support cases, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement, State Box Scores.

Percentage of cases with support orders, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement, Unaudited Performance Incentive Scores for each year.

Child support collection rates, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement, Unaudited Performance Incentive Scores for each year.

Cost effectiveness of collections, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement, Unaudited Performance Incentive Scores for each year.

Section 3:
The State of Early Care and Education

Public preschool enrollments, 2006-07, 2009-10, 2010-11. Number of students enrolled in half- and full-day NJ Department of Education approved programs, operated both in-district and in community centers, as reported by the NJ Department of Education, October enrollment counts of each year. Excludes children enrolled in Head Start or other federally-funded programs that do not receive any state aid.

Percentage of children not enrolled in nursery school, preschool or kindergarten, ages 3 – 5, 2007, 2009, 2010. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org.

Children enrolled in Head Start, 2005, 2008, 2009. US Administration for Children and Families, Head Start Program Fact Sheets for each year. Please note that updated 2010 data were not available.

Licensed child care centers and capacity, 2007, 2010, 2011. The number and capacity of state-licensed child care centers as reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. 2010 data are as of June.

Child Care Waiting List, 2008, 2011, 2012. As reported by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development. Includes all children on a waiting list for child care vouchers through the Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development, New Jersey Cares for Kids. 2008 through 2011 data are for April each year. 2012 data are for March.

Registered family day care providers, 2006, 2009, 2010. The number of registered providers offering child care in their homes as reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families.

Public kindergarten enrollments, 2006-07, 2009-10, 2010-11. The number of students enrolled in half- and full-day public kindergarten, as reported by the NJ Department of Education, October enrollment counts of each year.

Public school enrollment, 2006-07, 2009-10, 2010-11. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, October enrollment counts.

Public school special education enrollment, 2006-07, 2009-10, 2010-11. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, Special Education Data.

Homeless Students, 2008-09, 2009-10. As reported by the NJ Department of Education.

Percentage of students passing 3rd grade tests, 2006-07, 2009-10, 2010-11. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, NJ Statewide Assessment Reports. Tests are administered in the spring of each year. Scores for low-income students are based on eligibility for free- and reduced-price lunch. Please note that in 2008-09 the Department of Education changed the testing standard for this grade.

Percentage of students passing 4th grade tests, 2006-07, 2009-10, 2010-11. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, NJ Statewide Assessment Reports. Tests are administered in the spring of each year. Scores for low-income students are based on eligibility for free- and reduced-price lunch. In 2008-09 the Department of Education changed the testing standard for this grade.

Percentage of students passing 8th grade tests, 2006-07, 2009-10, 2010-11. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, NJ Statewide Assessment Reports. Tests are administered in the spring of each year. Scores for low-income students are based on eligibility for free- and reduced-price lunch. In 2007-08 the Department of Education changed the testing standard for this grade.

Percentage of students passing 11th grade tests, 2006-07, 2009-10, 2010-11. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, NJ Statewide Assessment Reports. Tests are administered in the spring of each year. Scores for low-income students are based on eligibility for free- and reduced-price lunch.

Achievement Gap, K-12, 2006-07, 2009-10, 2010-11. NJ Department of Education, NJ Statewide Assessment Data. The average gap, in percent, between economically disadvantaged and non-economically disadvantaged students passing tests in 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 11th grades for each year. Includes students passing standardized achievement tests in language arts, math and science where applicable. The average was weighted to take into account different numbers of students who take each test in each grade.

Data Sources and Technical Notes

School violence, vandalism, weapons, and substance abuse incidents, 2005-06, 2009-10. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, Commissioner of Education's Report on Violence, Vandalism and Substance Abuse in NJ Public Schools each year.

Students Taking SATs, 2005-06, 2008-09, 2009-10. As reported by the US Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics.

On-time graduation rate, 2004-05, 2007-08, 2008-09. As reported by US Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Trends in High School Dropout and Complete Rates in the United States: 1972-2009, Compendium Report.

Post-graduation plans of NJ high school seniors, 2009-10, Percentage. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, 2009-10 Report Card data.

Highest level of education completed 18-24 year olds, 2010, Percentage. As reported by US Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B15001.

Section 4:
The State of Child Health

Children without health insurance, number and percentage, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the US Census, Current Population Survey, table HI-05.

Low-income uninsured children, number and percentage, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the US Census, Current Population Survey, table HI-10.

Uninsured children, NJ vs. US, 2009. Data on all children are from the US Census, Current Population Survey, table HI-05. Data on income levels via the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org.

Children receiving NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid, 2007, 2010, 2011. As reported by the NJ Department of Human Services as of March of each year. Includes children enrolled in Medicaid, which is available to children living in families earning below 133% of the federal poverty level and children enrolled in the SCHIP portion of NJ FamilyCare, which is available to children living in families earning between 134% and 350% of the federal poverty level.

Children Receiving NJ FamilyCare Advantage, 2010, 2011. As reported by Horizon NJ Health, currently the only HMO program administering NJ FamilyCare Advantage, which is available to children living in families earning above 350% of the federal poverty level, thus not eligible for NJ FamilyCare. Data are as of March for each year. Data prior to 2008 are not available.

Total births, 2004, 2007, 2008. As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data.

Low-birthweight babies, number and percentage, 2004, 2007, 2008. The number of babies weighing less than 2,500 grams, as reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data.

Women receiving early prenatal care, number and percentage, 2004, 2007, 2008. Live births for which the mother received early prenatal care (onset in first trimester), as reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data.

Births to unmarried mothers, number and percentage, 2004, 2007, 2008. As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data.

Percentage of mothers receiving first trimester prenatal care by race, 2004, 2007, 2008. Calculations based on data from the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data.

Percentage of low-birthweight babies by race/ethnicity of mother, 2004, 2007, 2008. As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data.

Infant mortality, number and rate, 2004, 2007, 2008. Counts infants who die within the first year of life. As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data. 2008 data are preliminary.

Child deaths, number and rate, 2004, 2007, 2008. Counts children who died between the ages of 1–14. As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data. 2008 data are preliminary.

Percentage of children immunized by age 2, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the Centers for Disease Control, National Immunization Survey. The percentage of children receiving the complete series of four or more doses of the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccines; three or more doses of poliovirus vaccine; and one or more doses of any measles-mumps-rubella vaccine by age two.

Childhood lead testing, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Family Health Services, Maternal, Child and Community Health Services, Annual reports. Any child with a blood lead level equal to or greater to 10 µg/dL (micrograms of lead per deciliter of whole blood) is suffering from childhood lead poisoning and in need of corrective follow-up treatment.

Data Sources and Technical Notes

Children living with AIDS/HIV, 2007, 2010, 2011. As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Division of HIV/AIDS Services. Data are as of June 30 for each year.

Children admitted to the hospital for asthma, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Hospital Discharge Data.

Children living with asthma, NJ, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the American Lung Association, ***Estimated Prevalence and Incidence of Lung Disease by Lung Association Territory*** for each year.

Children with special health care needs (CSHCN), NJ vs. US, 2010, %. As reported by the 2009/10 National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs. "NS-CSHCN 2009/10". Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health website. www.childhealthdata.org.

Division of Child Behavioral Health Services (DCBHS) enrollment, 2006, 2010, 2011. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families, Division of Child Behavioral Health Services. Data are as of June 30 for each year. Includes children receiving care management through DCBHS via Care Management Organizations (CMOs), Youth Case Management programs (YCMs) and Unified Care Management (UCM).

DCBHS type of out-of-home placement, 2011, %. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families, Division of Child Behavioral Health Services. Data are as of June 30.

Dental treatment for children enrolled in NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the Annual EPSDT Participation Report, Form CMS-416, US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, for each year. The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit provides comprehensive and preventive health care services for children under age 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid or SCHIP (NJ FamilyCare). Under EPSDT, states are required to provide the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services with data to assess the effectiveness of EPSDT.

Dental care for children in out-of-home placement, 2007, 2010, 2011. As reported by the Center for the Study of Social Policy, Progress of the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, Monitoring Reports. Data are as of June 30 for each year. Please note that many of the children in out-of-home placement are also eligible for Medicaid.

Give kids a smile, 2009, 2011, 2012. As reported by the NJ Dental Association. Give Kids a Smile is a national free-dental day for children ages 3-12 where dental professionals volunteer their time and services. The American Dental Association provides high-level strategic guidance and the NJ Dental Association carries out the programs operations on the ground level. Data are only available beginning in 2009.

Section 5:
The State of Child Protection

Children under state child protection supervision, 2007, 2010, 2011. As reported by the NJ. Department of Children and Families. Data are as of December 31 for 2007 and as of September 30 for 2010 and 2011.

Children in out-of-home placement, 2007, 2010, 2011. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. Data are as of December 31 for 2007 and as of September 30 for 2010 and 2011.

Children receiving in-home services, 2007, 2010, 2011. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. Data are as of December 31 for 2007 and as of September 30 for 2010 and 2011.

Children entering and exiting out-of-home care through DYFS, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families.

Investigations for child abuse/neglect, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families.

Referrals for family services, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. Represents calls to the state child abuse hotline where a screener determines that child abuse/neglect has not occurred but a family wants state services or intervention to prevent abuse from occurring.

Child abuse/neglect substantiations, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families.

Children found to be abused or neglected after prior report of abuse or neglect, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families, with analysis by Chapin Hall Center for Children. Please note that in the spring of 2011 Chapin Hall, in consultation with the Department of Children and Families, updated the methodology for its maltreatment data. Previously, the investigation start date was used as the trigger date for recurrence data, however this has been changed to reflect the date of referral as the trigger date. This report updates historical data previously reported in Kids Count reports to reflect this new methodology.

Data Sources and Technical Notes

Percentage of children who were not victims of repeat child abuse/neglect, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families. Child Maltreatment reports. The percentage of child abuse/neglect victims who were not victims of another incident of abuse/neglect within a 6 month period.

Children in out-of-home care, by type of placement, 2007, 2010, 2011. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. Data from 2010 are as of September 30 and data from 2011 are as of December 31.

Children abused/neglected after reunification with family, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families, with analysis by Chapin Hall Center for Children. Please note that in the spring of 2011 Chapin Hall, in consultation with the Department of Children and Families, updated the methodology for its maltreatment data. Previously, the investigation start date was used as the trigger date for recurrence data, however this has been changed to reflect the date of referral as the trigger date. This report updates historical data previously reported in Kids Count reports to reflect this new methodology.

Foster care re-entry, 2005, 2008, 2009. As reported by the Center for the Study of Social Policy, Progress of the Department of Children and Families, Monitoring Reports. The percentage of all children who leave custody and that re-enter custody within one year of the date of exit.

State-finalized adoptions, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. Represents the number of adoptions finalized through the Department.

Children legally free but not adopted, 2007, 2010, 2011. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. Children whose parents' legal rights have been terminated but who have not yet been adopted. 2009 data are as of February, 2010 and 2011 data are as of December 31.

Amount of time to reunification for children (%), 2007, 2009, 2010. As reported by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families. Child Welfare Outcomes Report Data. Please note percentages may not equal 100 due to missing data.

Amount of time to adoption for children (%), 2007, 2009, 2010. As reported by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families. Child Welfare Outcomes Report Data. Please note percentages may not equal 100 due to missing data.

Children living in permanent homes with relatives (Kinship Legal Guardianship), 2007, 2010, 2011. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. Data are as of the end of each fiscal year.

Older youth under state supervision, number and percentage, 2007, 2010, 2011. As reported by the NJ Department of Children and Families. Youth under state supervision may or may not be in out-of-home care.

Section 6:
The State of Teens and Young Adults

Young adults in poverty, number and percentage, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org.

Youth 18-24 who are not working, not in school and have no degree beyond high school, 2008, 2009, 2010. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org. Due to a change in the 2008 American Community Survey, data prior to 2008 are not comparable.

Teens 16-19 not working and not attending school, number and percentage, 2008, 2009, 2010. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org. Due to a change in the 2008 American Community Survey, data prior to 2008 are not comparable.

NJ vs. US, youth in poverty, 2010. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org.

Youth 19-24 who have no health insurance, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, with assistance from the Population Reference Bureau. Please note previous data have been updated due to release of updated census estimates.

NJ vs. US, Health Insurance, 2010. As reported by the US Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2010, with assistance from the Population Reference Bureau.

Births to females ages 10-19, 15-19, number and percentage, 2004, 2007, 2008. As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data.

Percentage of births to females through age 19 who were already mothers, 2004, 2007, 2008. Percentage of all teen births that were to teenagers who had already given birth. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org.

Data Sources and Technical Notes

Births to teens, NJ vs. US, 2008. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org.

Juvenile arrests, number and rate, 2006, 2009, 2001. As reported by the NJ Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of State Police, Uniform Crime Reports for each year. Rate calculated using US Census population data.

Juvenile commitments, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the NJ Juvenile Justice Commission.

Admissions to juvenile county detention, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the NJ Juvenile Justice Commission, JDAI Annual Report for each year.

Average daily population as percentage of approved capacity, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the NJ Juvenile Justice Commission, JDAI Annual Report for each year.

Average length of stay in detention, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the NJ Juvenile Justice Commission, JDAI Annual Report for each year.

Teen arrests, 13-19, by offense as percentage of all arrests, 2006, 2009, 2010. NJ data are from the NJ Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of State Police, Uniform Crime Reports. US data are from the US Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reporting Program, Crime in the United States Reports.

Police disposition of juveniles taken into custody, 2010. As reported by the NJ Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of State Police, Uniform Crime Report.

Sexually Transmitted Infections, 2006, 2009, 2010. The number and rate of 16- to 20-year-olds who were diagnosed with Chlamydia, gonorrhea, or syphilis. As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services. Rates were calculated using US Census Bureau population data.

Teen deaths, 2004, 2007, 2008. Counts teenagers 15-19. As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics. Teen death rate calculated using U.S. Census population data. 2008 data are preliminary.

Teen deaths by accident, homicide, suicide, rate per 100,000, 2004, 2007, 2008. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org.

Section 7:
The State of Immigrant Families

Foreign-born children, number and percentage, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, chart B05003.

Children in immigrant families, number and percentage, 2006, 2009, 2010. Children living in families where at least one member is foreign-born. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org.

Children in immigrant families who are citizens, number and percentage, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the US Census Bureau, 2006 through 2010, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) 1-year files, with assistance from the Population Reference Bureau (PRB).

Children in immigrant families in poverty, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the Kids Count Data Center, http://datacenter.kidscount.org

Children ages 5-17 in immigrant families who speak a language other than English at home, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, with assistance from the Population Reference Bureau (PRB). Please note that data included in previous Kids Count reports have been updated.

Children ages 5-17 in immigrant families who have no difficulty speaking English, 2006, 2009, 2010. As reported by the US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, with assistance from the Population Reference Bureau (PRB). Defined as children who speak English exclusively or have the ability to speak English rated as "well" or "very well." Please note that data included in previous Kids Count reports have been updated.

Immigrant workers and their families, 2010. As reported by the US Census Bureau, Selected Characteristics of the Native and Foreign-Born Population, 2010 American Community Survey, chart S0501.

Help New Jersey's children grow up healthy, safe and educated.

Donate to ACNJ today at www.acnj.org.

As a non-profit, ACNJ counts on support from donors to succeed in our efforts.

A cornerstone of ACNJ's success is our independence. We are strictly non-partisan and accept no government funding for our advocacy, freeing us to focus on our sole mission - helping children.

Your tax-deductible donation gives ACNJ the resources we need to advance positive change for all of New Jersey's children. Together, we can fight for better laws and policies, more effective funding and stronger services ensuring that all children have the chance to grow up safe, healthy and educated.

For more information about how you can help support our work, please contact Erin Morales, Director of Development 973-643-3876 or emorales@acnj.org.

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN OF NEW JERSEY

35 Halsey Street
Newark, NJ 07102

(973) 643-3876

advocates@acnj.org

www.acnj.org

Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/acnjforkids

ADVOCATES *for* CHILDREN OF NEW JERSEY

Giving Every Child A Chance