NEWS



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Cape May Inches Up to 17th in NJ Kids Count Rankings

Cape May County inched up to 17th place in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measure progress in improving the lives of children in 15 critical areas. The county ranked 18th last year.

The well-being of Cape May County children progressed in two areas: median family income and women receiving prenatal care.

The county lost ground, however, in several other measures, including child poverty, households spending too much on rent, birth to teens and students passing state tests.

"As more families struggle economically, the Kids Count profiles give us a clearer picture of the progress and challenges in improving the lives of thousands of children," said Cecilia Zalkind, executive director of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which publishes the Kids Count reports. "Local, county and state leaders are increasingly using Kids Count data to inform decisions and formulate responses to the needs of children across New Jersey."

"The good news is that median family income for Cape May families increased significantly, which had the greatest impact on the county's rise in the Kids Count rankings," Zalkind said. "Despite that, many families fell farther behind economically, resulting in a significant rise in child poverty. That's concerning."

Key Cape May County findings follow.

Child Poverty. In 2010, 18 percent of Cape May County children lived in families earning too little to meet their basic needs, up from 12 percent in 2009. The country ranked dropped from 11th to 14th on this critical measure of child well-being.

Housing Costs. More Cape May County families spent too much on rent, going from 48 percent in 2009 to 53 percent in 2010. The county's ranking on this measure dropped from 9th to 12th.

Prenatal Care. Cape May saw an encouraging increase in the percent of women receiving early prenatal care, from 77 percent in 2009 to 80 percent in 2008, the latest year for which data are available. The county moved up in the rankings from 13th to 8th on this indicator.

Education. Some Cape May County students lost ground on state tests, with slight drops in 4th and 8th grade pass rates.

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.

Cape May County

2012 County Rank: 17

2012 Kids Count County Profiles

2011 County Rank: 18

				2011	2012
	Year	County	NJ	Rank	Rank
Demographics					
Child Population	2010	18,349	2,065,214	20	20
Total Population	2010	97,253	8,801,624	20	20
Family Economics					
Percentage of Children in Poverty	2010	18	14	11	14
Median Income of Families with Children	2010	\$81,375	\$83,208	20	12
Percentage Unemployed	2011	15.1	8.7	21	21
Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of					
Income on Rent	2010	53	51	9	12
Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving					
Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast	2010-11	45	30	2	2
Health and Safety					

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Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care	2008	80	76	13	8
Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19	2008	10	6	15	19
Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)	2008	7	5	14	16
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations*	2010	85	45	20	19
Children in Out-of-Home Placement*	2011	8	3	21	21
Juvenile Arrests*	2010	38	20	20	20
*Date now 1 000 children und ou 10					

^{*}Rate per 1,000 children under 18.

Early Care and Education					
Licensed Center-Based Child Care Supply (slots per					
1,000 0-4)	2011	306	652	21	21
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests	2010-11	75	77	12	13
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests	2010-11	80	78	7	10
Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests	2010-11	83	82	11	12



To view data sources and for more information, visit www.acnj.org

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