Ocean County

2012 County Rank: 13

2012 Kids Count County Profiles

2011 County Rank: 13

	Year	County	NJ	2011 Rank	2012 Rank
Demographics					
Child Population	2010	134,919	2,065,214	5	**5**
Total Population	2010	577,603	8,801,624	6	**6**
Family Economics					
Percentage of Children in Poverty	2010	21	14	12	**17**
Median Income of Families with Children	2010	$73,324	$83,208	12	**14**
Percentage Unemployed	2011	9.9	8.7	14	**15**
Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent	2010	63	51	20	**21**
Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast	2010-11	22	30	17	**15**
Health and Safety					
Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care	2008	78	76	10	**11**
Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19	2008	4	6	7	**7**
Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)	2008	3	5	8	**2**
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations*	2010	50	45	10	**13**
Children in Out-of-Home Placement*	2011	2	3	8	**8**
Juvenile Arrests*	2010	13	20	6	**3**

*Rate per 1,000 children under 18.

Early Care and Education					
Licensed Center-Based Child Care Supply (slots per 1,000 0-4)	2011	332	652	20	**20**
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests	2010-11	81	77	7	**8**
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests	2010-11	82	78	8	**8**
Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests	2010-11	84	82	12	**10**

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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Ocean Retains 13th Place in NJ Kids Count Rankings

Ocean County retained its 13th place spot in the annual **New Jersey Kids Count** rankings, which measure progress in improving the lives of children in 15 critical areas.

The well-being of Ocean County children improved in certain areas, including school breakfast, infant mortality, juvenile arrests and 11th graders passing state tests.

The county's child poverty rate, however, climbed significantly and median household income fell.

"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," Zalkind added.

"Ocean County posted some encouraging gains, including increasing the number of children receiving a healthy meal at the start of their day and reducing juvenile arrests," Zalkind said. "The increase in child poverty and the drop in family income, however, is concerning."

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Key Ocean County findings follow.

Child Poverty. Ocean County's child poverty rate rose from 13 percent in 2009 to 21 percent in 2010. That pushed the county from 12th to 17th in the Kids Count rankings for this indicator of family economic security.

Family Income. Ocean County families earned less, overall, in 2010 than in 2009, with median family income declining from more than $76,000 to roughly $73,000. The county's ranking on this measure fell from 12th to 14th.

School Breakfast. More Ocean children received a healthy meal at the start of their school day, with 22 percent of eligible children receiving breakfast in 2010-11, up from 19 percent in 2009-10. The county, however, has plenty of room for improvement, as thousands of children are still going without school breakfast.

Juvenile Arrests. Ocean's juvenile arrest rate fell from 16 arrests per 1,000 children in 2009 to 13 in 2010. The county's rank improved to 3rd on this indicator, up from 6th last year.

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.