# Somerset County

**2012 County Rank: 3**

## 2012 Kids Count County Profiles

2011 County Rank: 4

| | Year | County | NJ | 2011 Rank | 2012 Rank |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Demographics** | | | | | |
| Child Population | 2010 | 80,835 | 2,065,214 | 13 | **13** |
| Total Population | 2010 | 324,194 | 8,801,624 | 13 | **13** |
| **Family Economics** | | | | | |
| Percentage of Children in Poverty | 2010 | 7 | 14 | 2 | **3** |
| Median Income of Families with Children | 2010 | $126,776 | $83,208 | 3 | **1** |
| Percentage Unemployed | 2011 | 6.5 | 8.7 | 3 | **3** |
| Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent | 2010 | 48 | 51 | 11 | **4** |
| Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast | 2010-11 | 13 | 30 | 19 | **19** |
| **Health and Safety** | | | | | |
| Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care | 2008 | 88 | 76 | 2 | **1** |
| Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19 | 2008 | 3 | 6 | 5 | **5** |
| Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births) | 2008 | 2 | 5 | 1 | **1** |
| Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations* | 2010 | 30 | 45 | 3 | **3** |
| Children in Out-of-Home Placement* | 2011 | 2 | 3 | 5 | **4** |
| Juvenile Arrests* | 2010 | 16 | 20 | 12 | **10** |
| **Early Care and Education** | | | | | |
| Licensed Center-Based Child Care Supply (slots per 1,000 0-4) | 2011 | 990 | 652 | 2 | **2** |
| Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests | 2010-11 | 84 | 77 | 4 | **5** |
| Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests | 2010-11 | 86 | 78 | 3 | **4** |
| Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests | 2010-11 | 89 | 82 | 3 | **3** |

*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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## Somerset Moves Up to 3rd Place in NJ Kids Count Rankings

Somerset County moved up to 3rd 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 4th last year.

The well-being of Somerset County children improved in certain areas, including family income, women receiving prenatal care and juvenile arrests. The county, however, experienced a significant increase in child poverty, although its 2010 rate of 7 percent is still half the statewide average of 14 percent.

"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.

"Somerset County children have some of the best outcomes in the state, ranking in the top three on many of the Kids Count measures of child well-being," Zalkind said. "The increase in child poverty, however, is concerning and should be a focus for county leaders."

**Key Somerset County findings follow.**

**Child Poverty.** In 2010, 7 percent of Somerset County children lived in families earning too little to meet their basic needs, up from 4 percent in 2009. This pushed the county from 2nd to 3rd in the Kids Count rankings.

**Family Income.** At the same time, however, Somerset families, on average, earned more in 2010 than in 2009, with median family income rising from about $115,000 to more than $126,000. The county ranked first in the state on this measure of family economic security, significantly outpacing the state average of $83,000.

**Juvenile Arrests.** Somerset saw a significant decline in its juvenile arrest rate, dropping from 21 arrests per 1,000 children under 18 in 2009 to 16 in 2010. That moved the county from 12th to 10th place in the Kids Count rankings.

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.