Union County

2012 County Rank: 8

2012 Kids Count County Profiles

2011 County Rank: 10

	Year	County	NJ	2011 Rank	2012 Rank
Demographics					
Child Population	2010	131,258	2,065,214	6	**6**
Total Population	2010	537,661	8,801,624	7	**7**
Family Economics					
Percentage of Children in Poverty	2010	17	14	13	**11**
Median Income of Families with Children	2010	$73,906	$83,208	14	**13**
Percentage Unemployed	2011	8.8	8.7	11	**11**
Percentage of HH Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent	2010	50	51	13	**6**
Percentage of Eligible Children Receiving Free/Reduced Price School Breakfast	2010-11	36	30	5	**4**
Health and Safety					
Percentage of Women Receiving Early Prenatal Care	2008	73	76	16	**14**
Percentage of Births to Girls 10-19	2008	6	6	12	**12**
Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)	2008	5	5	13	**12**
Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations*	2010	34	45	5	**5**
Children in Out-of-Home Placement*	2011	3	3	11	**9**
Juvenile Arrests*	2010	15	20	8	**7**

*Rate per 1,000 children under 18.

Early Care and Education					
Licensed Center-Based Child Care Supply (slots per 1,000 0-4)	2011	675	652	9	**10**
Percentage of Students Passing 4th Grade Tests	2010-11	75	77	13	**12**
Percentage of Students Passing 8th Grade Tests	2010-11	75	78	16	**14**
Percentage of Students Passing 11th Grade Tests	2010-11	78	82	15	**14**

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

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Giving Every Child A Chance

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NEWS

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Union Moves Up to 8th Place in NJ Kids Count Rankings

Union County moved up to 8th 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 10th last year.

The well-being of Union County children improved in many areas, including households spending too much on rent, school breakfast, women receiving early prenatal care and juvenile arrests. Test scores also inched up for Union County 8th and 11th graders.

The county's child poverty rate, however, increased from 14 percent in 2009 to 17 percent in 2010.

"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.

"Union County posted some positive gains in many critical areas of child well-being," Zalkind said. "Especially encouraging are the drop in juvenile arrests and the increase in children receiving school breakfast."

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Key Union County findings follow.

Child Poverty. Union County's child poverty rate increased from 14 percent in 2009 to 17 percent in 2010. The county, however, moved up in the Kids Count rankings from 13th to 11th on this measure of economic security because some other counties saw greater increases in child poverty.

Housing Costs. Fewer Union County families spent too much on rent, dropping from 53 percent in 2009 to 50 percent in 2010, moving the county from 13th to 6th on this indicator. Still, half of Union County families paid more than the recommended 30 percent of income on rent.

Prenatal Care. Union County saw an encouraging increase in women receiving prenatal care, going from 71 percent in 2007 to 73 percent in 2008. This moved the county from 16th to 14th place. Still, the county is behind the state average of 76 percent.

School Breakfast. More Union County children received a healthy meal at the start of their school day, with participation in the school breakfast program rising from 32 percent in 2009-11 to 36 percent in 2010-11. This moved Union to 4th on this measure, from 5th last year.

Juvenile Arrests. Fewer juveniles were arrested in 2010, with the rate dropping from 19 arrests per 1,000 children under 18 in 2009 to 15 in 2010. That moved Union from 8th to 7th 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.