

New Jersey Kids Count 2018 County Profiles

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New Jersey Kids Count 2018 County Ranking

Child and Family Economics			Child Health			Safety and Well-Being			Education *	
2017 2018			2017 2018			2017 2018			2018	
Atlantic	19	20	Atlantic	9	12	Atlantic	17	17	Atlantic	17
Bergen	3	4	Bergen	8	14	Bergen	5	5	Bergen	2
Burlington	10	5	Burlington	13	8	Burlington	15	13	Burlington	10
Camden	15	14	Camden	18	18	Camden	19	17	Camden	17
Cape May	17	19	Cape May	15	8	Cape May	21	21	Cape May	13
Cumberland	20	21	Cumberland	18	20	Cumberland	18	20	Cumberland	21
Essex	18	16	Essex	20	16	Essex	14	16	Essex	20
Gloucester	11	8	Gloucester	21	15	Gloucester	12	13	Gloucester	8
Hudson	12	12	Hudson	16	17	Hudson	9	9	Hudson	17
Hunterdon	4	3	Hunterdon	1	2	Hunterdon	10	10	Hunterdon	1
Mercer	6	11	Mercer	7	5	Mercer	10	12	Mercer	14
Middlesex	5	5	Middlesex	12	8	Middlesex	3	4	Middlesex	8
Monmouth	9	9	Monmouth	4	6	Monmouth	7	6	Monmouth	5
Morris	1	1	Morris	5	3	Morris	3	2	Morris	3
Ocean	16	15	Ocean	2	1	Ocean	1	3	Ocean	12
Passaic	20	18	Passaic	11	13	Passaic	16	15	Passaic	15
Salem	13	17	Salem	9	6	Salem	19	19	Salem	16
Somerset	2	2	Somerset	14	18	Somerset	2	1	Somerset	4
Sussex	7	7	Sussex	2	3	Sussex	6	6	Sussex	6
Union	13	13	Union	16	8	Union	12	10	Union	11
Warren	8	9	Warren	5	21	Warren	8	6	Warren	7

* NOTE: ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. **Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.**



2018 New Jersey State Profile

Quick Facts

Total Population	2016	8,944,469
Child Population	2016	1,984,439
Median Income of Families with Children	2016	\$95,718

Child and Family Economics

Domain Rank: Null

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Children Living Below the Poverty Threshold	2016	15	Null
Percent of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Rent	2016	49	Null
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	2017	4.6	Null

Education

Domain Rank: Null*

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on 3rd Grade English Language Arts PARCC Exams	2016-17	50	Null
High School Graduation Rate (Percent)	2016-17	91	Null
Percent of Students Chronically Absent (K-12)	2015-16	10	Null

Child Health

Domain Rank: Null

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Babies Born with Low Birthweight	2016	8.1	N
Percent of Children Under Age 6 Tested for Lead	2016	27	N
Percent of Children Under Age 18 Without Health Insurance	2016	3.5	N

Safety and Well-Being

Domain Rank: Null

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Juvenile Arrest Rate (Per 1,000 Children under 18)	2016	10.1	Null
Percent of Reported Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect	2016	9.3	Null
Percent of Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Working and Not in School	2012-2016	6	Null

* NOTE: ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.



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2018 New Jersey Kids Count County Rankings reveal disparities in child well-being across state

Outcomes for children should not depend on their zip code, but for too many New Jersey children, that is the reality, according to the annual New Jersey Kids Count county rankings and profiles released today by Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ). Statewide, the child poverty rate held steady at 15 percent, with mixed progress in the areas of health and supports for parents with young children.

Morris and Somerset Counties claimed the top spot among all New Jersey counties in family economics as well as safety and well-being, while southern counties - Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland and Salem ranked in the bottom seven in these domains. Ocean County, with its comparatively low rates of uninsured children and babies born with low birth weights, ranked first in health while Warren County ranked last. Hunterdon County ranked first in the state for education; Cumberland County landed at the bottom.

The rankings, which compare counties on 12 measures of child well-being, and across four domains – economics, health, safety and well-being, and education – provide a closer look at how children are faring in various parts of the state. The pocket guide—***New Jersey Kids Count 2018: The State of Our Counties***—also released today, provides a multiyear comparison of county-by-county child trend data across 42 measures of child well-being.

“Once again, the data shows different conditions for children living in each county, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live,” said Cecilia Zalkind, ACNJ president and CEO. “We hope local, county and state leaders, as well as the general public, will use this comprehensive data book to identify areas of concern and develop solutions to improve the lives of children in their own backyard.”

New Jersey families continued to grapple with high rent burdens, ranging from 42 percent in Morris County to 57 percent in Cumberland County of households spending more than 30 percent of their income on rent. In 2016, Hunterdon and Somerset families earned a median income of more than \$148,000 - more than three times the median income of Cumberland County households at \$42,300.

“Roughly two-thirds of children, ages 0 to 5, had all parents in the labor force, meaning access to quality early learning environments is critical,” Zalkind said. “Between 2013 and 2017, the state saw a slight decline in the number of licensed child care centers as well as preschool enrollment.”

Median costs for center-based child care in New Jersey ranged from \$161 to \$304 a week for an infant and \$160 to \$275 a week for a toddler. For low-income, working families who rely on subsidies to afford child care, only 12 percent of licensed centers had prices that met the subsidy rate for infant care and 19

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percent for center-based toddler care. In ten counties, 5 percent or fewer of center-based, infant care prices were affordable with a child care subsidy: Bergen, Burlington, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Somerset and Sussex--with Hunterdon and Sussex having no availability.

Teen births were down and fewer children were without health insurance, but the state also saw substantial declines in the percentage of children under 6 years old tested for the presence of lead in their blood. The percentage of children tested in 2016 ranged from 7 percent in Gloucester to 41 percent in Essex, compared to New Jersey's 27 percent.

Key Trends:

Child and Family Economics. Despite progress in New Jersey's unemployment rate and median family income, 15 percent of the Garden State's nearly 2 million children live in poverty, defined as earning just over \$24,000 for a family of four. Hunterdon, Morris and Somerset topped the list for the lowest percentages of child poverty at 6 percent or below, compared to Cumberland, Passaic and Salem, which had at least a quarter of their children in poverty.

Child Health. Hunterdon, Morris and Ocean received the highest rankings for child health, while Warren placed last in this domain followed by Cumberland. New Jersey's rate of uninsured children at 3.5 percent is at an all-time low. Warren and Hudson Counties, however, ranked last on this indicator with 6.4 percent of children without health insurance.

Education. With just 4 to 6 percent of their student population chronically absent and a high school graduation rate at or above 94 percent, Bergen, Morris and Hunterdon ranked in the top three for education. Cumberland and Essex Counties had the highest percentages of chronically absenteeism, with 14 to 16 percent missing at least 10 percent of enrolled school days or just two days a month. New Jersey saw a slight uptick in the graduation rate during the 2016-17 school year at 91 percent, increasing from 90 percent the previous year. Although just half of the state's children met or exceeded expectations on their third grade English Language Arts PARCC exams, Bergen (66 percent), Hunterdon (60 percent) and Morris County (65 percent) third graders outperformed their peers.

Safety and Well-Being. Ocean, Morris and Somerset took the top spots in this domain. In these counties, less than 7 percent of reported children had substantiated or established cases of child abuse or neglect. Morris and Somerset also had the lowest rates of youth not working and not in school, half the state's 6 percent. From 2012 to 2016, New Jersey continued to see dramatic declines in all 21 counties for the number of juvenile arrests. Hunterdon County experienced the most significant reduction – by approximately 53 percent.

In addition to the county rankings, Advocates for Children of New Jersey also released its first ever ***Babies Count: A Statewide Profile of Infants and Toddlers***. This report offers a statewide profile of the Garden State's youngest children and identifies areas for improvement in child well-being.

To read the reports, visit www.acnj.org.

Note, ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain this year, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.

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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.

New Jersey Kids Count 2018 County Profiles

How ACNJ Calculated the Rankings for 2018

ACNJ organizes their rankings according to four different domains: child and family economics, child health, safety and well-being, and education. Inspired by the rankings from the national KIDS COUNT project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, each domain includes three indicators, for a total of 12.

Ranks are computed for each indicator so that 1 is the most positive and 21 is the least positive. For example, a county with the highest graduation rates would rank #1, while the county with the highest unemployment rate would rank #21. In the case of a tie, both counties receive the same rank.

A rank is given to each county on each of the three indicators within a domain and then an overall domain rank is calculated for each county based on the individual indicator rankings. Each indicator is given equal weight within their respective domains.

*** Note, ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.**



2018 Atlantic County Profile

Quick Facts

Total Population	2016	270,991
Child Population	2016	58,962
Median Income of Families with Children	2016	\$61,277

Child and Family Economics Domain Rank: 20

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Children Living Below the Poverty Threshold	2016	24	18
Percent of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Rent	2016	56	20
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	2017	7.2	20

Education Domain Rank: 17*

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on 3rd Grade English Language Arts PARCC Exams	2016-17	39	19
High School Graduation Rate (Percent)	2016-17	90	12
Percent of Students Chronically Absent (K-12)	2015-16	13	19

Child Health Domain Rank: 12

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Babies Born with Low Birthweight	2016	7.8	
Percent of Children Under Age 6 Tested for Lead	2016	20	
Percent of Children Under Age 18 Without Health Insurance	2016	3.5	

Safety and Well-Being Domain Rank: 17

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Juvenile Arrest Rate (Per 1,000 Children under 18)	2016	12.1	15
Percent of Reported Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect	2016	10.9	16
Percent of Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Working and Not in School	2012-2016	8	19

* NOTE: ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.



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Atlantic County Ranks 12th in Child Health, Falls Behind in Education, Child Safety and Family Economics in the 2018 NJ Kids Count County Rankings

Atlantic County ranked 12th in child health among all of New Jersey's 21 counties—its highest ranking among all four domains of child well-being. According to the annual Kids Count county rankings and profiles released today by Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ), Atlantic County placed in the bottom five for education, child safety and family economics.

The rankings, which compare counties on 12 measures of child well-being, and across four domains – economics, health, safety and well-being, and education – provide a closer look at how children are faring in various parts of the state, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live. The pocket guide provides a multiyear comparison of county-by-county child trend data across 42 measures of child well-being.

Atlantic County's data did show some bright spots. The percentage of children without health insurance was reduced by nearly half, and fewer babies were born with low birthweights in 2016 than in 2012. There were also positive trends in family economics, including a 14 percent increase in median income from nearly \$54,000 to roughly \$61,300 between 2012 and 2016.

"For the nearly 59,000 children that call Atlantic County home, nearly a quarter live in poverty – above the statewide average of 15 percent," said Cecilia Zalkind, president and CEO of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which produces the Kids Count reports. "We hope that these county profiles will encourage community leaders to see these data and implement changes that will target resources and help improve the lives of the children in their own backyards."

Atlantic County rankings:

20th in Child and Family Economics: In 2017, Atlantic County's 7.2 percent unemployment rate exceeded the statewide average of 4.6 percent. Rental costs also proved to be a burden to many Atlantic households, with 56 percent spending 30 percent or more of their income on rent.

12th in Child Health: In 2016, 3.5 percent of kids were without health insurance, in line with New Jersey's child uninsured rate. That same year, roughly 20 percent of Atlantic County children under age 6 received a blood lead test in 2016, less than the state average of 27 percent.

17th in Safety and Well-Being: In 2016, 10.9 percent of reported cases of child abuse or neglect were substantiated or established, up from 9 percent in 2012. Atlantic County also saw a 42 percent decrease in juvenile arrests between 2012 and 2016, but the number of youth arrested between 2015 and 2016

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remained unchanged, with 712 arrests. The percentage of teens not in school and not working, sometimes referred to as idle or disconnected youth, was 8 percent, above the state's average of 6 percent.

17th in Education: Graduation rates held steady in Atlantic County at 90 percent, just below the state average of 91 percent. Students identified as chronically absent, or missing 10 percent or more of the school year, saw no change at 13 percent from the prior year. During the 2017-18 school year, 39 percent of third graders met or exceeded expectations in the Language Arts PARCC exams; the state average was 50 percent.

Note, ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain this year, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.

In addition to the county rankings, Advocates for Children of New Jersey also released its first ever ***Babies Count: A Statewide Profile of Infants and Toddlers***. This report offers a statewide profile of the Garden State's youngest children and identifies areas for improvement in child well-being.

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2018 Bergen County Profile

Quick Facts

Total Population	2016	939,151
Child Population	2016	201,301
Median Income of Families with Children	2016	\$121,142

Child and Family Economics

Domain Rank: 4

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Children Living Below the Poverty Threshold	2016	8	6
Percent of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Rent	2016	47	7
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	2017	3.9	4

Education

Domain Rank: 2*

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on 3rd Grade English Language Arts PARCC Exams	2016-17	66	1
High School Graduation Rate (Percent)	2016-17	95	2
Percent of Students Chronically Absent (K-12)	2015-16	6	4

Child Health

Domain Rank: 14

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Babies Born with Low Birthweight	2016	8.1	
Percent of Children Under Age 6 Tested for Lead	2016	23	
Percent of Children Under Age 18 Without Health Insurance	2016	4.2	

Safety and Well-Being

Domain Rank: 5

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Juvenile Arrest Rate (Per 1,000 Children under 18)	2016	7.8	8
Percent of Reported Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect	2016	8.7	9
Percent of Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Working and Not in School	2012-2016	4	4



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* NOTE: ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.

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2018 NJ Kids Count County Rankings: Bergen County Ranks Among Top Five in Economic Well-Being, Education and Child Safety

Bergen County ranked in the top five among the state in three domains of child well-being: education, safety and family economics. Yet, in child health, it placed 14th in the Garden State, showing areas for improvement, according to the annual Kids Count county rankings and profiles released today by Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ).

The rankings, which compare counties on 12 measures of child well-being, and across four domains – economics, health, safety and well-being, and education – provide a closer look at how children are faring in various parts of the state, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live. The pocket guide, ***New Jersey Kids Count 2018: The State of Our Counties***, provides a five-year comparison of county-by-county child trend data across 42 measures of child well-being.

“Bergen County outperformed the rest of the state in third grade English Language Arts PARCC exams and had the second highest high school graduation rate in the state. Yet the county’s rate of uninsured children was above the state average, contributing to its 14th place ranking in child health,” said Cecilia Zalkind, president and CEO of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which produces the Kids Count reports. “We hope that these county profiles will encourage community leaders to see these data and implement changes that will target resources and help improve the lives of the children in Bergen County.”

Bergen County ranks:

Fourth in Child and Family Economics: Bergen County’s relatively low unemployment and child poverty rate contributed to the county’s higher performance in this ranking. In 2016, 8 percent of Bergen children lived in poverty, down from 10 percent in 2012. Unemployment declined from 6.7 percent in 2013 to 3.9 percent in 2017. But despite having one of the lowest percentages of households with high rent burdens in the state, 47 percent of Bergen households still paid 30 percent or more of their income on rental costs.

14th in Child Health: In 2016, 4.2 percent of children were uninsured, above the state average of 3.5 percent. In addition, 23 percent of Bergen children under age 6 received a blood lead test in 2016, up from 21 percent in 2012, but still below New Jersey’s rate of 27 percent. The county’s percentage of babies born with a low birthweight – 8.1 – was in line with the state’s average.

Fifth in Safety and Well-Being: The number of juvenile arrests steadily decreased over the years in Bergen County by 33 percent, from 2,354 in 2012 to 1,575 in 2016. During that same period, the

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percentage of reported children with substantiated or established findings of abuse or neglect also decreased from 13.4 percent to 8.7 percent. The percentage of teens not in school and not working, sometimes referred to as idle or disconnected youth, was 4 percent, which is lower than the state average of 6 percent.

Second in Education: Bergen County held the second highest percentage of third graders meeting or exceeding expectations on the English Language Arts PARCC exams at 66 percent. Graduation rates were above average in Bergen County at 95 percent, compared to New Jersey's 91 percent. Only 6 percent of students are chronically absent – missing 10 percent or more school days, placing Bergen fourth in the state on this indicator.

Note, ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain this year, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.

In addition to the county rankings, Advocates for Children of New Jersey also released its first ever ***Babies Count: A Statewide Profile of Infants and Toddlers***. This report offers a statewide profile of the Garden State's youngest children and identifies areas for improvement in child well-being.

To read the reports, visit www.acnj.org.

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2018 Burlington County Profile

Quick Facts

Total Population	2016	449,284
Child Population	2016	94,690
Median Income of Families with Children	2016	\$96,529

Child and Family Economics

Domain Rank: 5

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Children Living Below the Poverty Threshold	2016	8	7
Percent of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Rent	2016	47	6
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	2017	4.1	5

Education

Domain Rank: 10*

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on 3rd Grade English Language Arts PARCC Exams	2016-17	49	10
High School Graduation Rate (Percent)	2016-17	93	8
Percent of Students Chronically Absent (K-12)	2015-16	9	9

Child Health

Domain Rank: 8

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Babies Born with Low Birthweight	2016	7.9	
Percent of Children Under Age 6 Tested for Lead	2016	13	
Percent of Children Under Age 18 Without Health Insurance	2016	1.5	

Safety and Well-Being

Domain Rank: 13

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Juvenile Arrest Rate (Per 1,000 Children under 18)	2016	9.9	12
Percent of Reported Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect	2016	10.7	15
Percent of Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Working and Not in School	2012-2016	6	9

* NOTE: ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.



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2018 NJ Kids Count County Rankings: Burlington County Ranks among Top Ten for Economic Well-Being, Health and Education, 13th in Safety and Well-Being

Burlington County ranked fifth in family economics, but was 13th in safety and well-being, according to the annual state Kids Count county rankings and profiles released today by Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ).

The rankings, which compare counties on 12 measures of child well-being, and across four domains – economics, health, safety and well-being, and education – provide a closer look at how children are faring in various parts of the state, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live. The pocket guide, ***New Jersey Kids Count County Pocket Guide***, provides a five-year comparison of county-by-county child trend data across 42 measures of child well-being.

“In the coming years, Burlington County could do better in ensuring more young children are tested for lead. Roughly 13 percent of children under age 6 received a blood lead test in 2016. On a positive note, the county boasts the second lowest rate of uninsured children in the state,” said Cecilia Zalkind, ACNJ president and CEO. “We hope that these county profiles will encourage community leaders to see these data and implement changes that will target resources and help improve the lives of the children in Burlington County.”

Burlington County ranks:

Fifth in Child and Family Economics: Nearly 94,700 children called Burlington County home in 2016, with 8 percent living below the poverty threshold. That same year, 47 of Burlington households paid more than 30 percent of their income on housing costs, slightly below the state average of 49 percent. Between 2013 and 2017, unemployment fell from 7.6 percent to 4.1 percent.

Eighth in Child Health: Burlington was one of four counties showing an increase in the percentage of children tested for lead, up from 11 percent in 2012 to 13 percent in 2016. The rate of uninsured children also declined during that same period, from 2.3 percent to 1.5 percent in 2016.

13th in Safety and Well-Being: In Burlington, juvenile arrests continued to decline, decreasing by 42 percent from 2012 to 2016. Six percent of teens ages 16 to 19 were not enrolled in school or without work, indicating that the overwhelming majority of Burlington County teens were connected to some form of employment or school.

10th in Education: During the 2016-17 school year, graduation rates were above the state average at 93 percent, compared to New Jersey’s 91 percent. That same year, 49 percent of Burlington third graders met or exceeded expectations in the English Language Arts PARCC exams. In addition, 9 percent of Burlington students were chronically absent during the 2015-16 school year - defined as missing 10 percent or more of school days.

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In addition to the county rankings, Advocates for Children of New Jersey also released its first ever ***Babies Count: A Statewide Profile of Infants and Toddlers***. This report offers a statewide profile of the Garden State's youngest children and identifies areas for improvement in child well-being.

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2018 Camden County Profile

Quick Facts

Total Population	2016	510,150
Child Population	2016	117,396
Median Income of Families with Children	2016	\$79,788

Child and Family Economics

Domain Rank: 14

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Children Living Below the Poverty Threshold	2016	15	12
Percent of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Rent	2016	49	11
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	2017	5.1	15

Education

Domain Rank: 17*

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on 3rd Grade English Language Arts PARCC Exams	2016-17	44	16
High School Graduation Rate (Percent)	2016-17	88	16
Percent of Students Chronically Absent (K-12)	2015-16	13	18

Child Health

Domain Rank: 18

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Babies Born with Low Birthweight	2016	9.4	
Percent of Children Under Age 6 Tested for Lead	2016	13	
Percent of Children Under Age 18 Without Health Insurance	2016	2.3	

Safety and Well-Being

Domain Rank: 17

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Juvenile Arrest Rate (Per 1,000 Children under 18)	2016	23.4	20
Percent of Reported Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect	2016	12.4	18
Percent of Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Working and Not in School	2012-2016	7	12

* NOTE: ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.



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2018 NJ Kids Count County Rankings: Camden County Ranks 14th in Economic Well-Being, 18th in Safety and Well-Being

Camden County ranked 14th in family economics among all of New Jersey's 21 counties—its highest ranking among all four domains of child well-being. According to the annual state Kids Count county rankings and profiles released today by Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ), Camden County placed in the bottom five for education, health and child safety.

The rankings, which compare counties on 12 measures of child well-being, and across four domains – economics, health, safety and well-being, and education – provide a closer look at how children are faring in various parts of the state. The pocket guide, ***New Jersey Kids Count County Pocket Guide***, provides a five-year comparison of county-by-county child trend data across 42 measures of child well-being.

“Once again, the data shows different conditions for children living in each county, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live,” said Cecilia Zalkind, president and CEO of Advocates for Children of New Jersey. “We hope that these county profiles will encourage community leaders to see these data and implement changes that will target resources and help improve the lives of the children in Camden County.”

Camden County ranks:

14th in Child and Family Economics: Camden County's child poverty rate and percentage of households with high rent burdens mirrored the state at 15 percent and 49 percent, respectively. The unemployment rate, at 5.1 percent, was above the state's 4.6 percent.

18th in Child Health: Roughly 13 percent of Camden County children under age 6 received a blood lead test in 2016, compared to New Jersey's 27 percent. The county also saw no change in the percent of babies born with a low birthweight between 2012 and 2016 at 9.4 percent; the state average was 8.1 percent. On a positive note, just 2.3 percent of kids were without health insurance, compared to New Jersey's child uninsured rate of 3.5 percent.

17th in Safety and Well-Being: Consistent with statewide trends, the county saw a dramatic decrease in juvenile arrests rates from roughly 3,800 in 2012 to about 2,700 in 2016. Seven percent of teens, ages 16 to 19 were not enrolled in school or without work, just above the state rate of 6 percent. In addition, 12.4 percent of reported cases of child abuse or neglect were substantiated or established in 2016, down from 13.6 in 2012.

Giving Every Child A Chance

17th in Education: With an 88 percent graduation rate and 13 percent of students chronically absent, Camden showed room for improvement in these indicators. In addition, 44 percent of the county's third graders met or exceeded expectations in the English Language Arts PARCC exams, compared to the state rate of 50 percent.

Note, ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain this year, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.

In addition to the county rankings, Advocates for Children of New Jersey also released its first ever ***Babies Count: A Statewide Profile of Infants and Toddlers***. This report offers a statewide profile of the Garden State's youngest children and identifies areas for improvement in child well-being.

To read the reports, visit www.acnj.org.

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2018 Cape May County Profile

Quick Facts

Total Population	2016	94,430
Child Population	2016	16,642
Median Income of Families with Children	2016	\$76,783

Child and Family Economics

Domain Rank: 19

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Children Living Below the Poverty Threshold	2016	17	14
Percent of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Rent	2016	55	19
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	2017	9.1	21

Education

Domain Rank: 13*

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on 3rd Grade English Language Arts PARCC Exams	2016-17	50	9
High School Graduation Rate (Percent)	2016-17	88	17
Percent of Students Chronically Absent (K-12)	2015-16	12	16

Child Health

Domain Rank: 8

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Babies Born with Low Birthweight	2016	6	
Percent of Children Under Age 6 Tested for Lead	2016	11	
Percent of Children Under Age 18 Without Health Insurance	2016	2.9	

Safety and Well-Being

Domain Rank: 21

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Juvenile Arrest Rate (Per 1,000 Children under 18)	2016	30.6	21
Percent of Reported Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect	2016	15.2	21
Percent of Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Working and Not in School	2012-2016	9	20

* NOTE: ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.



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2018 NJ Kids Count County Rankings: Cape May County Ranks 8th for Child Health, Lags Behind in Education, Child and Family Economics and Safety and Well-Being

Cape May County received its highest ranking – eighth – in child health, but placed last in the area of safety and well-being among all 21 counties, according to the annual New Jersey Kids Count county profiles and pocket guide released today.

The rankings, which compare counties on 12 measures of child well-being, and across four domains – economics, health, safety and well-being, and education – provide a closer look at how children are faring in various parts of the state. The pocket guide, ***New Jersey Kids Count County Pocket Guide***, provides a five-year comparison of county-by-county child trend data across 42 measures of child well-being.

“Once again, the data shows different conditions for children living in each county. Cape May posted the lowest rate of babies born with low birthweights, pushing the county to rank within the top ten in child health. However, the county ranked near the bottom for its low lead testing rate,” said Cecilia Zalkind, president and CEO of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which produces the Kids Count reports. “We hope that these county profiles will encourage community leaders to see these data and implement changes that will target resources and help improve the lives of the children in Cape May County.”

Cape May County ranks:

19th in Child and Family Economics: Despite a 36 percent drop in unemployment between 2013 and 2017, Cape May had the highest unemployment rate in the state at 9.1 percent, compared to New Jersey’s 4.6 percent. Moreover, the percentage of households spending 30 percent or more of their income on rent rose from 52 percent in 2012 to 55 percent in 2016 – a 6 percent increase.

Eighth in Child Health: Cape May ranked first in the state for having the lowest percentage of babies born with low birthweights at 6 percent, compared with New Jersey’s 8.1 percent. In addition, the county’s child uninsured rate was just 2.9 percent. But there is room for improvement in the number of children tested for lead. While overall more than a quarter of New Jersey children under age 6 received a blood lead test in 2016, Cape May’s testing rate was 11 percent.

21st in Safety and Well-Being: Cape May placed last in the state for having the highest percentage of children with substantiated or established cases of reported child abuse or neglect at 15.2 percent in 2016 compared to 12.1 in 2012; the 2016 state average was 9.3 percent. Nine percent of Cape May teens were not in school and not working, compared to the state average of 6 percent.

Giving Every Child A Chance

13th in Education: Cape May County was on par with New Jersey's percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations on the third grade English Language Arts PARCC exams at 50 percent. The county's graduation rate of 88 percent was below the state average of 90 percent. And roughly 12 percent of students were chronically absent – missing 10 percent or more school days.

Note, ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain this year, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.

In addition to the county rankings, Advocates for Children of New Jersey also released its first ever ***Babies Count: A Statewide Profile of Infants and Toddlers***. This report offers a statewide profile of the Garden State's youngest children and identifies areas for improvement in child well-being.

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2018 Cumberland County Profile

Quick Facts

Total Population	2016	153,797
Child Population	2016	36,626
Median Income of Families with Children	2016	\$42,282

Child and Family Economics

Domain Rank: 21

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Children Living Below the Poverty Threshold	2016	25	20
Percent of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Rent	2016	57	21
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	2017	7	19

Education

Domain Rank: 21*

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on 3rd Grade English Language Arts PARCC Exams	2016-17	26	21
High School Graduation Rate (Percent)	2016-17	81	21
Percent of Students Chronically Absent (K-12)	2015-16	16	21

Child Health

Domain Rank: 20

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Babies Born with Low Birthweight	2016	10	
Percent of Children Under Age 6 Tested for Lead	2016	23	
Percent of Children Under Age 18 Without Health Insurance	2016	6.2	

Safety and Well-Being

Domain Rank: 20

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Juvenile Arrest Rate (Per 1,000 Children under 18)	2016	15.9	18
Percent of Reported Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect	2016	14.6	19
Percent of Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Working and Not in School	2012-2016	12	21

* NOTE: ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.



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2018 NJ Kids Count County Rankings: Cumberland County Shows Room for Improvement in Child Well-Being Shows Room for Improvement in Child Well-Being

Cumberland County showed room for improvement in several areas, ranking last or near last in all four areas of child well-being, according to the annual New Jersey Kids Count county profiles and pocket guide released today.

The rankings, which compare counties on 12 measures of child well-being, and across four domains – economics, health, safety and well-being, and education – provide a closer look at how children are faring in various parts of the state, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live. The pocket guide, ***New Jersey Kids Count County Pocket Guide***, provides a five-year comparison of county-by-county child trend data across 42 measures of child well-being.

“Cumberland County children had the highest rates of students not graduating high school on time, missing too much school, and not passing third grade English Language Arts PARCC exams,” said Cecilia Zalkind, president and CEO of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which produces the Kids Count reports. “We hope that these county profiles will encourage community leaders to see these data and implement changes that will target resources and help improve the lives of the children in Cumberland County.”

Cumberland County ranks:

21st in Child and Family Economics: Roughly a quarter of Cumberland County’s 36,600 children lived below the poverty threshold in 2016, compared to the state average of 15 percent. The unemployment rate, at 7 percent, was higher than the state’s 4.6 percent, and rental costs prove to be a burden to many Cumberland households with 57 percent spending 30 percent or more of their income on rent.

20th in Child Health: In 2016, ten percent of Cumberland babies were born with low birthweights, the most among all 21 counties. In addition, the county had the second highest rate of uninsured children at 6.2 percent, compared to New Jersey’s 3.5 percent. While 27 percent of New Jersey children under age 6 received a blood lead test in 2016, Cumberland’s testing rate was 23 percent

20th in Safety and Well-Being: Exceeding the state’s average of 9.3 percent, 14.6 percent of children with reported cases of child abuse or neglect were substantiated or established in 2016. Consistent with state trends, Cumberland County saw a decrease in juvenile arrests from 938 in 2012 to 582 in 2016. Cumberland also had the highest rate of teens are not working and not in school at 12 percent, placing the county last in this indicator.

Giving Every Child A Chance

21st in Education: During the 2016-17 school year, just 26 percent of Cumberland third graders met or exceeded expectations on the third grade English Language Arts PARCC exams, compared to New Jersey's 50 percent. Statewide, 91 percent of high schoolers graduated, but in Cumberland, 81 percent graduated. The county's chronic absenteeism rate of 16 percent also exceeded the statewide average of 10 percent.

Note, ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain this year, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.

In addition to the county rankings, Advocates for Children of New Jersey also released its first ever ***Babies Count: A Statewide Profile of Infants and Toddlers***. This report offers a statewide profile of the Garden State's youngest children and identifies areas for improvement in child well-being.

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2018 Essex County Profile

Quick Facts

Total Population	2016	796,914
Child Population	2016	189,492
Median Income of Families with Children	2016	\$66,840

Child and Family Economics

Domain Rank: 16

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Children Living Below the Poverty Threshold	2016	21	16
Percent of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Rent	2016	54	17
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	2017	5.7	16

Education

Domain Rank: 20*

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on 3rd Grade English Language Arts PARCC Exams	2016-17	48	13
High School Graduation Rate (Percent)	2016-17	87	19
Percent of Students Chronically Absent (K-12)	2015-16	14	20

Child Health

Domain Rank: 16

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Babies Born with Low Birthweight	2016	9.7	
Percent of Children Under Age 6 Tested for Lead	2016	41	
Percent of Children Under Age 18 Without Health Insurance	2016	5.3	

Safety and Well-Being

Domain Rank: 16

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Juvenile Arrest Rate (Per 1,000 Children under 18)	2016	10	13
Percent of Reported Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect	2016	9.8	14
Percent of Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Working and Not in School	2012-2016	8	17

* NOTE: ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.



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2018 NJ Kids Count County Rankings: Essex County Shows Room for Improvement in Child Well-Being

Essex County ranked 16th in child health, family economics and safety, and 20th in education for this year's ***New Jersey Kids Count County Pocket Guide***, according to the annual New Jersey Kids Count county profiles and pocket guide released today.

The rankings, which compare counties on 12 measures of child well-being, and across four domains – economics, health, safety and well-being, and education – provide a closer look at how children are faring in various parts of the state, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live. The pocket guide, ***New Jersey Kids Count County Pocket Guide***, provides a five-year comparison of county-by-county child trend data across 42 measures of child well-being.

“Essex County has one of the highest rates of students missing too much school as well as not graduating high school. But the county also outperformed the rest of the state in lead testing for young children,” said Cecilia Zalkind, president and CEO of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which produces the Kids Count reports. “We hope that these county profiles will encourage community leaders to see these data and implement changes that will target resources and help improve the lives of the children in Essex County.”

Essex County ranks:

16th in Child and Family Economics: In 2016, 21 percent of Essex County’s nearly 189,500 children lived in poverty, compared to 15 percent of the state child population. The unemployment rate, at 5.7 percent, was higher than the state’s 4.6 percent, and rental costs proved to be a burden to many Essex households with 54 percent spending 30 percent or more of their income on rent.

16th in Child Health: Essex County held the top spot for the high percentage of children under age 6 receiving a blood lead test in 2016, far above the state average of 27 percent. Consistent with state trends, fewer Essex children were without health insurance at 5.3 percent, but still above New Jersey’s 3.5 percent. There was also room for improvement in the area of babies born with low birthweights. In 2016, 9.7 percent of Essex County newborns were born weighing less than 5.5 pounds, compared to 8.1 percent of babies born statewide.

16th in Safety and Well-Being: The percentage of teens not in school and not working, sometimes referred to as idle or disconnected youth, was 8 percent, exceeding the state’s average of 6 percent. The county saw a decrease in substantiated or established cases of child abuse and neglect from 10.6 percent in 2012 to 9.8 percent in 2016. Consistent with statewide declines, Essex County also saw a decrease in juvenile arrests rates from 14.1 in 2012 to 10.0 in 2016.

Giving Every Child A Chance

20th in Education: Essex County saw 48 percent of third graders meeting or exceeding expectations on the 2016-17 English Language Arts PARCC exams, close to the state average of 50 percent. Despite progress, Essex's 87 percent high school graduation rate fell below the state's rate of 91 percent. Essex also had the state's second highest percentage of students chronically absent, with 14 percent missing roughly 10 percent or more of the enrolled school days.

Note, ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain this year, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.

In addition to the county rankings, Advocates for Children of New Jersey also released its first ever ***Babies Count: A Statewide Profile of Infants and Toddlers***. This report offers a statewide profile of the Garden State's youngest children and identifies areas for improvement in child well-being.

To read the reports, visit www.acnj.org.

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2018 Gloucester County Profile

Quick Facts

Total Population	2016	292,330
Child Population	2016	65,492
Median Income of Families with Children	2016	\$106,644

Child and Family Economics

Domain Rank: 8

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Children Living Below the Poverty Threshold	2016	8	5
Percent of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Rent	2016	48	9
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	2017	4.7	12

Education

Domain Rank: 8*

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on 3rd Grade English Language Arts PARCC Exams	2016-17	50	8
High School Graduation Rate (Percent)	2016-17	93	9
Percent of Students Chronically Absent (K-12)	2015-16	8	7

Child Health

Domain Rank: 15

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Babies Born with Low Birthweight	2016	7.8	
Percent of Children Under Age 6 Tested for Lead	2016	7	
Percent of Children Under Age 18 Without Health Insurance	2016	1.6	

Safety and Well-Being

Domain Rank: 13

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Juvenile Arrest Rate (Per 1,000 Children under 18)	2016	9.3	11
Percent of Reported Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect	2016	11.6	17
Percent of Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Working and Not in School	2012-2016	5	8

* NOTE: ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.



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2018 NJ Kids Count County Rankings: Gloucester County Shows Mixed Progress in Child Well-Being

The continued decline of young children tested for lead in Gloucester County contributed to its 15th place ranking in child health in this year's annual Kids Count county rankings and profiles released today by Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ). Gloucester County placed in eighth in education and family economics.

The rankings, which compare counties on 12 measures of child well-being, and across four domains – economics, health, safety and well-being, and education – provide a closer look at how children are faring in various parts of the state, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live. The pocket guide, ***New Jersey Kids Count County Pocket Guide***, provides a five-year comparison of county-by-county child trend data across 42 measures of child well-being.

“Exposure to lead can have lifelong impacts on a child’s brain development, behavior, and learning, which is why Gloucester County’s 7 percent testing rate is very concerning,” said Cecilia Zalkind, president and CEO of ACNJ. “We hope that these county profiles will encourage community leaders to see these data and implement changes that will target resources and help improve the lives of the children in Bergen County.”

Gloucester County ranks:

Eighth in Child and Family Economics: In 2016, 8 percent of Gloucester County’s nearly 65,500 children lived in poverty, compared to 15 percent of the state child population. The unemployment rate, at 4.7 percent, was slightly above the state’s 4.6 percent, and rental costs proved to be a burden to many Gloucester households with 48 percent spending 30 percent or more of their income on rent.

15th in Child Health: Just 7 percent of Gloucester children under age 6 received a blood lead test in 2016 in Gloucester County, placing the county last in the state on this measure; the overall rate of New Jersey children tested was 27 percent. On a positive note, the county saw a decline in children without health insurance to 1.6 percent, compared to 3.5 percent statewide. The percentage of babies born with low birth weights– 7.8 percent was below the state’s average of 8.1.

13th in Safety and Well-Being: Exceeding the state average of 9.3 percent, 11.6 percent of children with reported cases of child abuse or neglect were substantiated or established in 2016. Gloucester County also saw a dramatic decrease in juvenile arrest rates from 14.8 in 2012 to 9.3 in 2016, consistent with statewide trends. Five percent of teens ages 16 to 19 were not enrolled in school or without work, indicating that the overwhelming majority of Burlington County teens were connected to some form employment or school.

Giving Every Child A Chance

Eighth in Education: Gloucester County's percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations on third grade Language Arts PARCC exams was in line with the state at 50 percent. Gloucester boasted a 93 percent high school graduation rate, higher than New Jersey's rate of 91 percent. Also, 8 percent of students were chronically absent, meaning they miss 10 percent or more of enrolled school days.

Note, ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain this year, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.

In addition to the county rankings, Advocates for Children of New Jersey also released its first ever ***Babies Count: A Statewide Profile of Infants and Toddlers***. This report offers a statewide profile of the Garden State's youngest children and identifies areas for improvement in child well-being.

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2018 Hudson County Profile

Quick Facts

Total Population	2016	677,983
Child Population	2016	138,598
Median Income of Families with Children	2016	\$58,674

Child and Family Economics

Domain Rank: 12

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Children Living Below the Poverty Threshold	2016	22	17
Percent of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Rent	2016	45	3
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	2017	4.4	10

Education

Domain Rank: 17*

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on 3rd Grade English Language Arts PARCC Exams	2016-17	43	18
High School Graduation Rate (Percent)	2016-17	85	20
Percent of Students Chronically Absent (K-12)	2015-16	10	12

Child Health

Domain Rank: 17

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Babies Born with Low Birthweight	2016	8.3	
Percent of Children Under Age 6 Tested for Lead	2016	38	
Percent of Children Under Age 18 Without Health Insurance	2016	6.4	

Safety and Well-Being

Domain Rank: 9

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Juvenile Arrest Rate (Per 1,000 Children under 18)	2016	8.6	10
Percent of Reported Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect	2016	7	5
Percent of Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Working and Not in School	2012-2016	7	13

* NOTE: ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.



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2018 NJ Kids Count County Rankings: Hudson County Ranks Near the Bottom in Child Health and Education

Hudson County ranked 17th in both child health and education among all New Jersey's 21 counties according to the annual ***New Jersey Kids Count County Pocket Guide***, released today by Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ). The county fared only slightly better in the child and family economics and safety domains, placing 12th and ninth, respectively.

High rates of children living without health insurance contributed to Hudson County's ranking in the health category; in 2016, 6.4 percent of children were uninsured, far greater than the state at 3.5 percent. However, Hudson County maintained one of the highest percentages of children under age 6 being tested for the presence of lead—a bright spot amongst Hudson's child health ranking. In the education domain, third grade English Language Arts results on the state's PARCC exams and high school graduation rates impacted the county's rank.

The rankings, which compare counties on 12 measures of child well-being, and across four domains – child and family economics, health, safety and well-being, and education – provide a closer look at how children are faring in various parts of the state, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live. The pocket guide, ***New Jersey Kids Count County Pocket Guide***, also released today, provides a five-year comparison of county-by-county child trend data across 42 measures of child well-being.

"Once again, the data shows different conditions for children living in each county, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live," said Cecilia Zalkind, ACNJ president and CEO. "We hope local, county and state leaders, as well as the general public, will use this comprehensive data book to identify areas of concern and develop solutions to improve the lives of children in their own backyard."

Hudson County ranks:

12th in Child and Family Economics: For the nearly 139,000 children that call Hudson County home, 22 percent, or 30,586 children, lived below the federal poverty level, compared to New Jersey's 15 percent. The county's unemployment rate of 4.4 percent improved from 2013. Forty-five percent of Hudson County households spent 30 percent or more of their incomes on rent, one of the state's lowest rent burden figures.

Giving Every Child A Chance

17th in Child Health: In 2016, 8.3 percent of Hudson County infants were born with a low birthweight, slightly higher than the state's 8.1 percent.

Ninth in Safety and Well-Being: In 2016, 7 percent of children reported for instances of abuse or neglect were determined to be substantiated or established cases, a decrease from the 2012 figure of 10.5 percent. Juvenile arrests also declined, dropping from over 1,500 in 2012 to just under 1,200 in 2016. Roughly 7 percent of Hudson teens ages 16-19 were without work or not enrolled in school, slightly higher than New Jersey's 6 percent.

17th in Education: Hudson's graduation rates improved slightly over the prior school year, increasing from 83 percent of students to 85 percent of students in 2016-17. Yet, Hudson County's graduation rate still fell below the state figure of 91 percent. Ten percent of Hudson County students were chronically absent during the 2015-16 school year, in line with the state. Students identified as chronically absent are those who missed 10 percent or more of the school year. Performance on the third grade English Language Arts PARCC exams fell below the state—only 43 percent of Hudson County third graders met or exceeded expectations.

Note, ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain this year, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.

In addition to the county rankings, Advocates for Children of New Jersey also released the first ever ***Babies Count: A Statewide Profile of Infants and Toddlers***. This report reveals where we as a state have improved the lives of our youngest children, while also identifying areas to look to do better using objective, clear-cut data that acts as the foundation for potential change.

To read the reports, visit www.acnj.org.

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2018 Hunterdon County Profile

Quick Facts

Total Population	2016	124,676
Child Population	2016	25,255
Median Income of Families with Children	2016	\$152,829

Child and Family Economics Domain Rank: 3

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Children Living Below the Poverty Threshold	2016	6	3
Percent of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Rent	2016	48	10
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	2017	3.5	1

Education Domain Rank: 1*

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on 3rd Grade English Language Arts PARCC Exams	2016-17	60	3
High School Graduation Rate (Percent)	2016-17	96	1
Percent of Students Chronically Absent (K-12)	2015-16	4	1

Child Health Domain Rank: 2

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Babies Born with Low Birthweight	2016	6.3	
Percent of Children Under Age 6 Tested for Lead	2016	14	
Percent of Children Under Age 18 Without Health Insurance	2016	1.5	

Safety and Well-Being Domain Rank: 10

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Juvenile Arrest Rate (Per 1,000 Children under 18)	2016	5.7	2
Percent of Reported Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect	2016	9.2	12
Percent of Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Working and Not in School	2012-2016	8	16

* NOTE: ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.



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Hunterdon County Ranks in Top 3 for Child and Family Economics, Education and Child Health, Lags in Safety and Well-Being

Hunterdon County ranked 10th in safety and well-being among all of New Jersey's 21 counties—its lowest ranking among all four domains of child well-being. According to the annual New Jersey Kids Count county rankings and profiles released today by Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ), Hunterdon County placed in the top 3 for child and family economics, education and child health.

Hunterdon demonstrated room for improvement in the safety domain, with 8 percent of teens disconnected from work or school and 9.2 percent of children suffering from abuse or neglect with substantiated or established cases—both contributing indicators to the safety domain. However, Hunterdon had the state's second lowest juvenile arrest rate, 5.7 per 1,000 youth under age 18, compared to New Jersey's 10.1.

The rankings, which compare counties on 12 measures of child well-being, and across four domains – economic, health, safety and well-being, and education – provide a closer look at how children are faring in various parts of the state, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live. The pocket guide—***New Jersey Kids Count 2018: The State of Our Counties***—also released today, provides a multiyear comparison of county-by-county child trend data across 42 measures of child well-being.

“Once again, the data shows different conditions for children living in each county, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live,” said Cecilia Zalkind, ACNJ president and CEO. “We hope local, county and state leaders, as well as the general public, will use this comprehensive data book to identify areas of concern and develop solutions to improve the lives of children in their own backyard.”

Hunterdon County rankings:

Third in Child and Family Economics: In 2016, 6 percent of Hunterdon County's roughly 25,000 children lived in poverty, compared to 15 percent of the state's child population. The unemployment rate, at 3.5 percent, was lower than the state's rate of 4.6 percent, and rental costs proved to be a burden to many Hunterdon County households with 48 percent spending 30 percent or more of their income on rent.

Giving Every Child A Chance

Second in Child Health: Hunterdon County held the second spot for its percentage of babies born with a low birthweight. In 2016, 6.3 percent of babies were born weighing less than 5.5 pounds, compared to 8.1 percent of babies born statewide. Although a few children in Hunterdon County were without health insurance, at roughly 1.5 percent in 2016, the county saw a slight increase in uninsured children from 0.6 percent in 2012. There was also potential for progress in ensuring children were tested for the presence of lead. In Hunterdon County, only 14 percent of children were tested for the hazardous toxin, compared to the state average of 27 percent.

10th in Safety and Well-Being: The percentage of teens not in school and not working, sometimes referred to as idle or disconnected youth, was 8 percent, exceeding the state's average of 6 percent. The county saw a decrease in its percentage of substantiated or established cases of child abuse and neglect from 13.3 percent in 2012 to 9.2 percent in 2016. Consistent with statewide declines, Hunterdon County also saw a decrease in juvenile arrests dropping by 53 percent from 2012 to 2016. Hunterdon had the state's second lowest juvenile arrest rate at 5.7 per 1,000 youth under age 18.

First in Education: During the 2016-17 school year, graduation rates exceeded the state average at 96 percent, compared to New Jersey's 91 percent. That same year, 60 percent of Hunterdon County third graders met or exceeded grade level expectations on the English Language Arts PARCC exams. 4 percent of students were chronically absent— missing 10 percent or more of enrolled school days during the 2015-16 school year.

Note, ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain this year, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.

In addition to the county rankings, Advocates for Children of New Jersey also released the first ever ***Babies Count: A Statewide Profile of Infants and Toddlers***. This report reveals where we as a state have improved the lives of our youngest children, while also identifying areas to look to do better using objective, clear-cut data that acts as the foundation for potential change.

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2018 Mercer County Profile

Quick Facts

Total Population	2016	371,023
Child Population	2016	79,617
Median Income of Families with Children	2016	\$95,870

Child and Family Economics

Domain Rank: 11

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Children Living Below the Poverty Threshold	2016	15	11
Percent of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Rent	2016	51	13
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	2017	4.1	5

Education

Domain Rank: 14*

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on 3rd Grade English Language Arts PARCC Exams	2016-17	48	12
High School Graduation Rate (Percent)	2016-17	90	14
Percent of Students Chronically Absent (K-12)	2015-16	12	17

Child Health

Domain Rank: 5

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Babies Born with Low Birthweight	2016	8.1	
Percent of Children Under Age 6 Tested for Lead	2016	24	
Percent of Children Under Age 18 Without Health Insurance	2016	2.4	

Safety and Well-Being

Domain Rank: 12

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Juvenile Arrest Rate (Per 1,000 Children under 18)	2016	14.7	17
Percent of Reported Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect	2016	7.1	6
Percent of Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Working and Not in School	2012-2016	6	10

* NOTE: ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.



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Mercer County Ranks Fifth in Child Health, Falls Behind in Education in the 2018 NJ Kids Count County Rankings

Mercer County ranked fifth in child health among all of New Jersey's 21 counties—its highest ranking among all four domains of child well-being. According to the annual New Jersey Kids Count county rankings and profiles released today by Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ), Mercer County placed in the bottom half for the remaining three rankings of safety and well-being, child and family economics, and education.

Mercer County held the 14th spot in education, the county's poorest domain ranking. A contributing indicator to the education domain, Mercer had one of the state's highest rates of chronic absenteeism at 12 percent—indicating that many students missed too many days of school. A student is chronically absent when they miss 10 percent or more of enrolled school days. And although Mercer County's high school graduation rate improved over the previous school year, the county's 90 percent graduation rate fell just below the state's figure.

The rankings, which compare counties on 12 measures of child well-being, and across four domains – economic, health, safety and well-being, and education – provide a closer look at how children are faring in various parts of the state, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live. The pocket guide—***New Jersey Kids Count 2018: The State of Our Counties***—also released today, provides a multiyear comparison of county-by-county child trend data across 42 measures of child well-being.

"Once again, the data shows different conditions for children living in each county, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live," said Cecilia Zalkind, ACNJ president and CEO. "We hope local, county and state leaders, as well as the general public, will use this comprehensive data book to identify areas of concern and develop solutions to improve the lives of children in their own backyard."

Mercer County rankings:

11th in Child and Family Economics: In 2016, 15 percent of Mercer County's nearly 80,000 children lived in poverty, the same as the statewide percentage. The unemployment rate, at 4.1 percent, was lower than the state's rate of 4.6 percent, and rental costs proved to be a burden

to many Mercer County households with 51 percent spending 30 percent or more of their income on rent.

Fifth in Child Health: Consistent with state trends, low percentages of Mercer County children were without health insurance at 2.4 percent, compared with New Jersey's 3.5 percent—although a slightly higher number of Mercer children were uninsured in 2016 than in 2012. There was also room for improvement in ensuring that Mercer kids were tested for the presence of lead. While the county ranked ahead of others—taking the sixth spot for lead testing—fewer children were tested in 2016 than in 2012. In 2016, 8.1 percent of Mercer County newborns were born weighing less than 5.5 pounds, in line with the statewide percentage, yet Mercer ranked 15th due to lower rates among other counties.

12th in Safety and Well-Being: The percentage of teens not in school and not working, sometimes referred to as idle or disconnected youth, was 6 percent. The county saw a decrease in substantiated or established cases of child abuse and neglect from 9.1 percent in 2012 to 7.1 percent in 2016. Consistent with statewide declines, Mercer County also saw a decrease in juvenile arrests rates from 21.7 in 2012 to 14.7 in 2016. However, Mercer County had one of the state's highest juvenile arrest rates—ranking 17th.

14th in Education: During the 2016-17 school year, 48 percent of Mercer County third graders met or exceeded grade level expectations on their English Language Arts PARCC exams, compared to 50 percent of New Jersey third graders statewide.

Note, ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain this year, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.

In addition to the county rankings, Advocates for Children of New Jersey also released the first ever ***Babies Count: A Statewide Profile of Infants and Toddlers***. This report reveals where we as a state have improved the lives of our youngest children, while also identifying areas to look to do better using objective, clear-cut data that acts as the foundation for potential change.

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2018 Middlesex County Profile

Quick Facts

Total Population	2016	837,073
Child Population	2016	182,186
Median Income of Families with Children	2016	\$102,575

Child and Family Economics

Domain Rank: 5

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Children Living Below the Poverty Threshold	2016	11	9
Percent of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Rent	2016	45	4
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	2017	4.1	5

Education

Domain Rank: 8*

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on 3rd Grade English Language Arts PARCC Exams	2016-17	53	7
High School Graduation Rate (Percent)	2016-17	90	11
Percent of Students Chronically Absent (K-12)	2015-16	8	6

Child Health

Domain Rank: 8

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Babies Born with Low Birthweight	2016	8	
Percent of Children Under Age 6 Tested for Lead	2016	21	
Percent of Children Under Age 18 Without Health Insurance	2016	2.5	

Safety and Well-Being

Domain Rank: 4

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Juvenile Arrest Rate (Per 1,000 Children under 18)	2016	6.7	7
Percent of Reported Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect	2016	6.2	2
Percent of Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Working and Not in School	2012-2016	4	7

* NOTE: ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.



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Middlesex County Ranks in the Top Five Counties for Family Economics and Safety, Top 10 for Child Health and Education in the 2018 NJ Kids Count County Rankings

Middlesex County ranked fourth in safety and well-being among all of New Jersey's 21 counties—its highest ranking among all four domains of child well-being. According to the annual New Jersey Kids Count county rankings and profiles released today by Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ), Middlesex County also landed in the top ten for child health and education, ranking eighth for both.

Middlesex County ranked in the top ten for child health but was 13th for its percentage of infants born with a low birthweight, a contributing indicator to the health domain. Middlesex showed room for improvement in other areas as well—though the county ranked high in child and family economics, 45 percent of Middlesex households spent too much on rent, or 30 percent or more of their income.

The rankings, which compare counties on 12 measures of child well-being, and across four domains – economic, health, safety and well-being, and education – provide a closer look at how children are faring in various parts of the state, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live. The pocket guide—***New Jersey Kids Count 2018: The State of Our Counties***—also released today, provides a multiyear comparison of county-by-county child trend data across 42 measures of child well-being.

“Once again, the data shows different conditions for children living in each county, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live,” said Cecilia Zalkind, ACNJ president and CEO. “We hope local, county and state leaders, as well as the general public, will use this comprehensive data book to identify areas of concern and develop solutions to improve the lives of children in their own backyard.”

Middlesex County rankings:

Fifth in Child and Family Economics: In 2016, 11 percent of Middlesex County's roughly 182,000 children lived in poverty, compared to 15 percent of the state child population. The unemployment rate of 4.1 percent was lower than the state's rate of 4.6 percent.

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Eighth in Child Health: Middlesex County held the ninth spot for its percentage of children under age 6 receiving a blood lead test in 2016, just below the state average of 27 percent, with 21 percent being tested. Consistent with state trends, fewer Middlesex children were without health insurance at 2.5 percent, compared with New Jersey's 3.5 percent in 2016.

Fourth in Safety and Well-Being: The percentage of teens not in school and not working, sometimes referred to as idle or disconnected youth, was 4 percent, below the state's average of 6 percent. The county saw a decrease in substantiated or established cases of child abuse and neglect from 8.4 percent in 2012 to 6.2 percent in 2016. Consistent with statewide declines, Middlesex County also saw a decrease in juvenile arrests rates from 8.7 in 2012 to 6.7 in 2016.

Eighth in Education: During the 2016-17 school year, graduation rates were just below the state average at 90 percent, compared to New Jersey's 91 percent. That same year, 53 percent of Middlesex third graders met or exceeded grade level expectations on the English Language Arts PARCC exams. And roughly 8 percent of students were chronically absent – missing 10 percent or more of the school year.

Note, ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain this year, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.

In addition to the county rankings, Advocates for Children of New Jersey also released the first ever ***Babies Count: A Statewide Profile of Infants and Toddlers***. This report reveals where we as a state have improved the lives of our youngest children, while also identifying areas to look to do better using objective, clear-cut data that acts as the foundation for potential change.

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2018 Monmouth County Profile

Quick Facts

Total Population	2016	625,846
Child Population	2016	135,394
Median Income of Families with Children	2016	\$123,850

Child and Family Economics

Domain Rank: 9

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Children Living Below the Poverty Threshold	2016	9	8
Percent of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Rent	2016	52	14
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	2017	4.1	5

Education

Domain Rank: 5*

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on 3rd Grade English Language Arts PARCC Exams	2016-17	58	5
High School Graduation Rate (Percent)	2016-17	94	6
Percent of Students Chronically Absent (K-12)	2015-16	9	8

Child Health

Domain Rank: 6

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Babies Born with Low Birthweight	2016	7.4	
Percent of Children Under Age 6 Tested for Lead	2016	16	
Percent of Children Under Age 18 Without Health Insurance	2016	2.8	

Safety and Well-Being

Domain Rank: 6

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Juvenile Arrest Rate (Per 1,000 Children under 18)	2016	11.4	14
Percent of Reported Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect	2016	8.3	8
Percent of Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Working and Not in School	2012-2016	4	3

* NOTE: ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.



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Monmouth County Ranks in the Top Five Counties in Education, Top 10 in Child Safety, Health and Family Economics in the 2018 NJ Kids Count County Rankings

Monmouth County ranked fifth in education among all of New Jersey's 21 counties—its highest ranking among all four domains of child well-being. According to the annual New Jersey Kids Count county rankings and profiles released today by Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ), Monmouth County also ranked sixth for both child health and safety and well-being, and ninth for child and family economics.

Though Monmouth County ranked in the top half of counties for all four domains of child well-being, the county showed room for improvement in several areas. More than half, or 52 percent, of Monmouth households spent too much of their incomes on rent, exceeding the state figure of 49 percent. A contributing indicator to the child and family economics domain, a high rent burden occurs when a household spends 30 percent or more of their earnings on rent.

The rankings, which compare counties on 12 measures of child well-being, and across four domains – economic, health, safety and well-being, and education – provide a closer look at how children are faring in various parts of the state, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live. The pocket guide—***New Jersey Kids Count 2018: The State of Our Counties***—also released today, provides a multiyear comparison of county-by-county child trend data across 42 measures of child well-being.

“Once again, the data shows different conditions for children living in each county, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live,” said Cecilia Zalkind, ACNJ president and CEO. “We hope local, county and state leaders, as well as the general public, will use this comprehensive data book to identify areas of concern and develop solutions to improve the lives of children in their own backyard.”

Monmouth County rankings:

Ninth in Child and Family Economics: In 2016, 9 percent of Monmouth County's roughly 135,000 children lived in poverty, compared to 15 percent of the state child population. The unemployment rate of 4.1 percent, was lower than the state's rate of 4.6 percent.

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Sixth in Child Health: Monmouth County held the 12th spot for its percentage of children under age 6 receiving a blood lead test in 2016 at 16 percent, far below the state average of 27 percent. Consistent with state trends, fewer Monmouth children were without health insurance at 2.8 percent, compared with New Jersey's 3.5 percent. Monmouth showed improvement in the area of babies born with low birthweights, dropping from 8.0 percent of births in 2012 to 7.4 percent in 2016.

Sixth in Safety and Well-Being: The percentage of teens not in school and not working, sometimes referred to as idle or disconnected youth, was 4 percent, compared to the state's average of 6 percent. The county saw a decrease in substantiated or established cases of child abuse and neglect from 11.9 percent in 2012 to 8.3 percent in 2016. Consistent with statewide declines, Monmouth County also saw a decrease in juvenile arrests rates from 15.1 in 2012 to 11.4 in 2016. Although the county showed progress, Monmouth's juvenile arrest rate exceeded the statewide rate of 10.1 arrests per 1,000 youths under age 18.

Fifth in Education: During the 2016-17 school year, graduation rates were above the state average at 94 percent, compared to New Jersey's 91 percent. That same year, 58 percent of Monmouth County third graders met or exceeded grade level expectations on the English Language Arts PARCC exams. And roughly 9 percent of students were chronically absent – missing 10 percent or more of the school year.

Note, ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain this year, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.

In addition to the county rankings, Advocates for Children of New Jersey also released the first ever ***Babies Count: A Statewide Profile of Infants and Toddlers***. This report reveals where we as a state have improved the lives of our youngest children, while also identifying areas to look to do better using objective, clear-cut data that acts as the foundation for potential change.

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2018 Morris County Profile

Quick Facts

Total Population	2016	498,423
Child Population	2016	108,169
Median Income of Families with Children	2016	\$140,067

Child and Family Economics

Domain Rank: 1

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Children Living Below the Poverty Threshold	2016	6	2
Percent of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Rent	2016	42	1
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	2017	3.6	2

Education

Domain Rank: 3*

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on 3rd Grade English Language Arts PARCC Exams	2016-17	65	2
High School Graduation Rate (Percent)	2016-17	95	4
Percent of Students Chronically Absent (K-12)	2015-16	5	2

Child Health

Domain Rank: 3

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Babies Born with Low Birthweight	2016	6.7	
Percent of Children Under Age 6 Tested for Lead	2016	13	
Percent of Children Under Age 18 Without Health Insurance	2016	1.8	

Safety and Well-Being

Domain Rank: 2

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Juvenile Arrest Rate (Per 1,000 Children under 18)	2016	6.5	6
Percent of Reported Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect	2016	6.4	3
Percent of Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Working and Not in School	2012-2016	3	1

* NOTE: ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.



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Morris County Ranks in the Top 3 in All Four Domains of Child Well-Being in the 2018 NJ Kids Count County Rankings

Morris County ranked first in child and family economics among all of New Jersey's 21 counties—its highest ranking among all four domains of child well-being. According to the annual New Jersey Kids Count county rankings and profiles released today by Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ), Morris County also held the second spot in the safety and well-being domain and ranked third for both health and education.

Morris County ranked in the top 3 for child health but was 16th in the state for its percentage of children under age 6 being tested for the presence of lead, a contributing indicator to the health indicator. The county's lead testing percentage decreased slightly over the 2012 figure, dropping from 14 percent of six-year-olds to 13 percent, indicating room for improvement. Statewide, 27 percent of six-year olds were tested for lead in 2016.

The rankings, which compare counties on 12 measures of child well-being, and across four domains – economic, health, safety and well-being, and education – provide a closer look at how children are faring in various parts of the state, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live. The pocket guide—***New Jersey Kids Count 2018: The State of Our Counties***—also released today, provides a multiyear comparison of county-by-county child trend data across 42 measures of child well-being.

“Once again, the data shows different conditions for children living in each county, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live,” said Cecilia Zalkind, ACNJ president and CEO. “We hope local, county and state leaders, as well as the general public, will use this comprehensive data book to identify areas of concern and develop solutions to improve the lives of children in their own backyard.”

Morris County rankings:

First in Child and Family Economics: In 2016, 6 percent of Morris County's roughly 108,000 children lived in poverty, compared to 15 percent of the state child population. The unemployment rate of 3.6 percent, was lower than the state's rate of 4.6 percent, and rental costs proved to be a burden to many Morris County households, with 42 percent spending 30 percent or more of their income on rent.

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Third in Child Health: Consistent with state trends, fewer Morris County children were without health insurance at 1.8 percent, compared with New Jersey's 3.5 percent. In 2016, 6.7 percent of Morris County newborns were born weighing less than 5.5 pounds, compared to 8.1 percent of babies born statewide.

Second in Safety and Well-Being: The percentage of teens not in school and not working, sometimes referred to as idle or disconnected youth, was 3 percent, below the state figure of 6 percent. The county saw a decrease in substantiated or established cases of child abuse and neglect from 7.6 percent in 2012 to 6.4 percent in 2016. Consistent with statewide declines, Morris County also saw a decrease in juvenile arrests rates from 9.5 in 2012 to 6.5 in 2016.

Third in Education: During the 2016-17 school year, graduation rates were above the state average at 95 percent, compared to New Jersey's 91 percent. That same year, 65 percent of Morris County third graders met or exceeded grade level expectations on the English Language Arts PARCC exams. And 5 percent of students were chronically absent – missing 10 percent or more of the school year.

Note, ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain this year, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.

In addition to the county rankings, Advocates for Children of New Jersey also released the first ever ***Babies Count: A Statewide Profile of Infants and Toddlers***. This report reveals where we as a state have improved the lives of our youngest children, while also identifying areas to look to do better using objective, clear-cut data that acts as the foundation for potential change.

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2018 Ocean County Profile

Quick Facts

Total Population	2016	592,497
Child Population	2016	140,200
Median Income of Families with Children	2016	\$85,206

Child and Family Economics

Domain Rank: 15

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Children Living Below the Poverty Threshold	2016	19	15
Percent of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Rent	2016	55	18
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	2017	4.8	13

Education

Domain Rank: 12*

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on 3rd Grade English Language Arts PARCC Exams	2016-17	45	15
High School Graduation Rate (Percent)	2016-17	91	10
Percent of Students Chronically Absent (K-12)	2015-16	12	15

Child Health

Domain Rank: 1

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Babies Born with Low Birthweight	2016	6.4	
Percent of Children Under Age 6 Tested for Lead	2016	26	
Percent of Children Under Age 18 Without Health Insurance	2016	1.5	

Safety and Well-Being

Domain Rank: 3

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Juvenile Arrest Rate (Per 1,000 Children under 18)	2016	5.1	1
Percent of Reported Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect	2016	6.8	4
Percent of Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Working and Not in School	2012-2016	4	6

* NOTE: ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.



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Ocean County Ranks First in Child Health, Falls Behind in Education and Family Economics in the 2018 NJ Kids Count County Rankings

Ocean County ranked first in child health among all of New Jersey's 21 counties—its highest ranking among all four domains of child well-being. According to the annual New Jersey Kids Count county rankings and profiles released today by Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ), Ocean County placed near the bottom in child and family economics.

Ocean County posted mixed progress, ranking first in New Jersey for health and third for safety and well-being but was 15th in child and family economics. More than half of Ocean County households, or 55 percent, spent more than 30 percent of their income on rent. With 19 percent of the county's children living in families below the federal poverty level, compared to 15 percent of the state over all, Ocean struggled in this domain.

The rankings, which compare counties on 12 measures of child well-being, and across four domains – economic, health, safety and well-being, and education – provide a closer look at how children are faring in various parts of the state, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live. The pocket guide—***New Jersey Kids Count 2018: The State of Our Counties***—also released today, provides a multiyear comparison of county-by-county child trend data across 42 measures of child well-being.

“Once again, the data shows different conditions for children living in each county, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live,” said Cecilia Zalkind, ACNJ president and CEO. “We hope local, county and state leaders, as well as the general public, will use this comprehensive data book to identify areas of concern and develop solutions to improve the lives of children in their own backyard.”

Ocean County rankings:

15th in Child and Family Economics: The unemployment rate of 4.8 percent was slightly higher than the state's rate of 4.6 percent.

First in Child Health: Ocean County held the fifth spot for its percentage of children under age 6 receiving a blood lead test in 2016, at 26 percent. Consistent with state trends, fewer Ocean County children were without health insurance at 1.5 percent, compared with New Jersey's 3.5

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percent. In 2016, 6.4 percent of Ocean County newborns were born weighing less than 5.5 pounds, compared to 8.1 percent of babies born statewide.

Third in Safety and Well-Being: The percentage of teens not in school and not working, sometimes referred to as idle or disconnected youth, was 4 percent, falling below the state's average of 6 percent. The county saw an increase in substantiated or established cases of child abuse and neglect from 5.2 percent in 2012 to 6.8 percent in 2016. Consistent with statewide declines, Ocean County also saw a decrease in juvenile arrests rates from 9.7 in 2012 to 5.1 in 2016.

12th in Education: During the 2016-17 school year, graduation rates were in line with the state average at 91 percent, although the county ranked 10th due to other counties posting higher graduation rates. That same year, 45 percent of Ocean County third graders met or exceeded grade level expectations on the English Language Arts PARCC exams. And roughly 12 percent of students were chronically absent – missing 10 percent or more of the school year.

Note, ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain this year, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.

In addition to the county rankings, Advocates for Children of New Jersey also released the first ever ***Babies Count: A Statewide Profile of Infants and Toddlers***. This report reveals where we as a state have improved the lives of our youngest children, while also identifying areas to look to do better using objective, clear-cut data that acts as the foundation for potential change.

To read the reports, visit 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 Kid Count grantee.



2018 Passaic County Profile

Quick Facts

Total Population	2016	507,945
Child Population	2016	123,044
Median Income of Families with Children	2016	\$62,507

Child and Family Economics

Domain Rank: 18

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Children Living Below the Poverty Threshold	2016	28	21
Percent of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Rent	2016	53	16
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	2017	5.7	16

Education

Domain Rank: 15*

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on 3rd Grade English Language Arts PARCC Exams	2016-17	36	20
High School Graduation Rate (Percent)	2016-17	90	13
Percent of Students Chronically Absent (K-12)	2015-16	10	11

Child Health

Domain Rank: 13

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Babies Born with Low Birthweight	2016	9	
Percent of Children Under Age 6 Tested for Lead	2016	37	
Percent of Children Under Age 18 Without Health Insurance	2016	4.3	

Safety and Well-Being

Domain Rank: 15

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Juvenile Arrest Rate (Per 1,000 Children under 18)	2016	14.7	16
Percent of Reported Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect	2016	8.1	7
Percent of Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Working and Not in School	2012-2016	8	18

* NOTE: ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.



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Passaic County Ranks 13th in Child Health, Falls Behind in Education, Safety and Well-Being and Child and Family Economics in the 2018 NJ Kids Count County Rankings

Passaic County ranked 13th in child health among all of New Jersey's 21 counties - its highest ranking among all four domains of child well-being. According to the annual state Kids Count county rankings and profiles released today by Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ), Passaic County placed in the bottom six for education, safety and well-being, as well as child and family economics.

The rankings, which compare counties on 12 measures of child well-being, and across four domains – economic, health, safety and well-being, and education – provide a closer look at how children are faring in various parts of the state, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live. The pocket guide — ***New Jersey Kids Count 2018: The State of Our Counties*** — released today, provides a multiyear comparison of county-by-county child trend data across 42 measures of child well-being.

“Passaic County fell behind the rest of the state in all four domains in this year's Kids Count county rankings. The county saw declines in expectant mothers receiving early prenatal care, but ranked third in the state for testing for lead among young children,” said Cecilia Zalkind, president and CEO of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which produces the Kids Count reports. “We hope that these county profiles will encourage community leaders to see these data and implement changes that will target resources and help improve the lives of the children in their backyards.”

Passaic County ranks:

18th in Child and Family Economics: In 2016, 28 percent of Passaic County's roughly 123,000 children lived in poverty, compared to 15 percent of the state child population. The unemployment rate, at 5.7 percent, was higher than the state's rate of 4.6 percent, and rental costs proved to be a burden to many Passaic County households with 53 percent spending 30 percent or more of their income on rent.

13th in Child Health: Passaic County saw a high percentage of children under age 6 receiving a blood lead test in 2016 at 37 percent, above the state average of 27 percent. Consistent with state trends, fewer Passaic County children were without health insurance at 4.3 percent, compared with New Jersey's 3.5 percent. There was progress in the area of babies born with low birthweights. In 2016, 9 percent of Passaic County newborns were born weighing less than 5.5 pounds, compared to 8.1 percent of babies born statewide.

15th in Safety and Well-Being: The percentage of teens not in school and not working, sometimes referred to as idle or disconnected youth, was 8 percent, exceeding the state's average of 6 percent. The county saw an increase in substantiated or established cases of child abuse and neglect from 8.3 percent

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to 8.1 percent in 2016. Consistent with statewide declines, Passaic County also saw a decrease in juvenile arrests rates, decreasing by 24 percent from 2012 to 2016.

15th in Education: During the 2016-17 school year, graduation rates were below the state average at 90 percent, compared to New Jersey's 91 percent. That same year, 36 percent of Passaic County third graders met or exceeded expectations in the English Language Arts PARCC exams. And roughly 10 percent of students were chronically absent – missing 10 percent or more of the school year.

Note, ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain this year, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.

In addition to the county rankings, Advocates for Children of New Jersey also released its first ever ***Babies Count: A Statewide Profile of Infants and Toddlers***. This report offers a statewide profile of the Garden State's youngest children and identifies areas for improvement in child well-being.

To read the reports, visit www.acnj.org.

###

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2018 Salem County Profile

Quick Facts

Total Population	2016	63,436
Child Population	2016	13,826
Median Income of Families with Children	2016	\$70,227

Child and Family Economics

Domain Rank: 17

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Children Living Below the Poverty Threshold	2016	25	19
Percent of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Rent	2016	52	15
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	2017	6.1	18

Education

Domain Rank: 16*

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on 3rd Grade English Language Arts PARCC Exams	2016-17	43	17
High School Graduation Rate (Percent)	2016-17	87	18
Percent of Students Chronically Absent (K-12)	2015-16	11	14

Child Health

Domain Rank: 6

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Babies Born with Low Birthweight	2016	7.3	
Percent of Children Under Age 6 Tested for Lead	2016	18	
Percent of Children Under Age 18 Without Health Insurance	2016	3.3	

Safety and Well-Being

Domain Rank: 19

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Juvenile Arrest Rate (Per 1,000 Children under 18)	2016	16.7	19
Percent of Reported Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect	2016	14.9	20
Percent of Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Working and Not in School	2012-2016	8	15

* NOTE: ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.



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Salem County Ranks Sixth in Child Health, Falls Behind in Child and Family Economics, Safety and Well-Being and Education

Salem County ranked sixth in child health among all of New Jersey's 21 counties – its highest ranking among all four domains of child well-being. According to the annual state Kids Count county rankings and profiles released today by Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ), Salem County placed in the bottom four for child and family economics, safety and well-being and education.

The rankings, which compare counties on 12 measures of child well-being, and across four domains – economic, health, safety and well-being, and education – provide a closer look at how children are faring in various parts of the state, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live. The pocket guide — ***New Jersey Kids Count 2018: The State of Our Counties*** — released today, provides a multiyear comparison of county-by-county child trend data across 42 measures of child well-being.

“Once again, the data shows different conditions for children living in each county, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live,” said Cecilia Zalkind, president and CEO of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which produces the Kids Count reports. “We hope that these county profiles will encourage community leaders to see these data and implement changes that will target resources and help improve the lives of the children in Salem County.”

Salem County ranks:

17th in Child and Family Economics: In 2016, 25 percent of Salem County's nearly 14,000 children lived in poverty, compared to 15 percent of the state child population. The unemployment rate, at 6.1, was higher than the state's rate of 4.6, and rental costs proved to be a burden to many Salem County households with 52 percent spending 30 percent or more of their income on rent.

6th in Child Health: Salem County was below average for children under age 6 receiving a blood lead test in 2016 at 18 percent, below the state average of 27 percent. Consistent with state trends, fewer Salem County children were without health insurance at 3.3 percent, compared with New Jersey's 3.5 percent. There was progress in the area of babies born with low birthweights. In 2016, 7.3 percent of Salem County newborns were born weighing less than 5.5 pounds, compared to 8.1 percent of babies born statewide.

19th in Safety and Well-Being: The percentage of teens not in school and not working, sometimes referred to as idle or disconnected youth, was 8 percent, exceeding the state's average of 6 percent. The county saw an increase in substantiated or established cases of child abuse and neglect from 10.4 in 2012 to 14.9 percent in 2016. Consistent with statewide declines, Salem County also saw a decrease in juvenile arrests, decreasing by 48 percent from 2012 to 2016.

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16th in Education: During the 2016-17 school year, graduation rates were below the state average at 87 percent, compared to New Jersey's 91 percent. That same year, 43 percent of Salem County third graders met or exceeded expectations in the English Language Arts PARCC exams. And roughly 11 percent of students were chronically absent – missing 10 percent or more of the school year.

Note, ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain this year, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.

In addition to the county rankings, Advocates for Children of New Jersey also released its first ever ***Babies Count: A Statewide Profile of Infants and Toddlers***. This report offers a statewide profile of the Garden State's youngest children and identifies areas for improvement in child well-being.

To read the reports, visit www.acnj.org.

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2018 Somerset County Profile

Quick Facts

Total Population	2016	333,751
Child Population	2016	75,022
Median Income of Families with Children	2016	\$148,909

Child and Family Economics

Domain Rank: 2

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Children Living Below the Poverty Threshold	2016	5	1
Percent of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Rent	2016	43	2
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	2017	3.8	3

Education

Domain Rank: 4*

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on 3rd Grade English Language Arts PARCC Exams	2016-17	59	4
High School Graduation Rate (Percent)	2016-17	94	5
Percent of Students Chronically Absent (K-12)	2015-16	5	3

Child Health

Domain Rank: 18

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Babies Born with Low Birthweight	2016	7.2	
Percent of Children Under Age 6 Tested for Lead	2016	12	
Percent of Children Under Age 18 Without Health Insurance	2016	4.6	

Safety and Well-Being

Domain Rank: 1

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Juvenile Arrest Rate (Per 1,000 Children under 18)	2016	6.3	5
Percent of Reported Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect	2016	5.9	1
Percent of Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Working and Not in School	2012-2016	3	2

* NOTE: ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.



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Somerset County Ranks First in Safety and Well-Being, Falls Behind in Child Health

Somerset County ranked first in safety and well-being, but placed 18th among all of New Jersey's 21 counties, according to the annual state Kids Count county rankings and profiles released today by Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ).

The rankings, which compare counties on 12 measures of child well-being, and across four domains – economic, health, safety and well-being, and education – provide a closer look at how children are faring in various parts of the state, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live. The pocket guide — ***New Jersey Kids Count 2018: The State of Our Counties*** — released today, provides a multiyear comparison of county-by-county child trend data across 42 measures of child well-being.

“Somerset County placed within the top four for safety and well-being, child and family economics, and education. However, it’s comparatively low rate of young children tested for the presence of lead in their blood contributed to the county’s standing in child health,” said Cecilia Zalkind, president and CEO of Advocates for Children of New Jersey. “We hope that these county profiles will encourage community leaders to see these data and implement changes that will target resources and help improve the lives of the children in Somerset County.”

Somerset County ranks:

2nd in Child and Family Economics: In 2016, 5 percent of Somerset County’s roughly 75,000 children lived in poverty, compared to 15 percent of the state child population. The unemployment rate, at 3.8, was lower than the state’s rate of 4.6, and rental costs proved to be a burden to 43 percent of Somerset County’s households, spending 30 percent or more of their income on rent.

18th in Child Health: Somerset County low for the percentage of children under age 6 receiving a blood lead test for 2016 at 12 percent, far below the state average of 27 percent. Bucking state trends, 4.6 percent of children were without health insurance, compared with New Jersey’s 3.5 percent. There was also room for improvement in the area of babies born with low birthweights. In 2016, 7.2 percent of Somerset County newborns were born weighing less than 5.5 pounds, compared to 8.1 percent of babies born statewide.

1st in Safety and Well-Being: The percentage of teens not in school and not working, sometimes referred to as idle or disconnected youth, was 3 percent, lower than the state’s average of 6 percent. The county saw an increase in substantiated or established cases of child abuse and neglect from 4.6 percent in 2012 to 5.9 percent in 2016. Consistent with statewide declines, Somerset County also saw a decrease in juvenile arrests, decreasing by 46 percent from 2012 to 2016.

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4th in Education: During the 2016-17 school year, graduation rates were above the state average at 94 percent, compared to New Jersey's 91 percent. That same year, 59 percent of Somerset County third graders met or exceeded expectations in the English Language Arts PARCC exams. And roughly 5 percent of students were chronically absent – missing 10 percent or more of the school year.

Note, ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain this year, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.

In addition to the county rankings, Advocates for Children of New Jersey also released its first ever ***Babies Count: A Statewide Profile of Infants and Toddlers***. This report offers a statewide profile of the Garden State's youngest children and identifies areas for improvement in child well-being.

To read the reports, visit www.acnj.org.

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2018 Sussex County Profile

Quick Facts

Total Population	2016	142,522
Child Population	2016	29,325
Median Income of Families with Children	2016	\$102,852

Child and Family Economics

Domain Rank: 7

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Children Living Below the Poverty Threshold	2016	7	4
Percent of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Rent	2016	47	8
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	2017	4.4	10

Education

Domain Rank: 6*

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on 3rd Grade English Language Arts PARCC Exams	2016-17	56	6
High School Graduation Rate (Percent)	2016-17	95	3
Percent of Students Chronically Absent (K-12)	2015-16	11	13

Child Health

Domain Rank: 3

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Babies Born with Low Birthweight	2016	7.1	
Percent of Children Under Age 6 Tested for Lead	2016	11	
Percent of Children Under Age 18 Without Health Insurance	2016	1.4	

Safety and Well-Being

Domain Rank: 6

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Juvenile Arrest Rate (Per 1,000 Children under 18)	2016	7.9	9
Percent of Reported Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect	2016	9.2	11
Percent of Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Working and Not in School	2012-2016	4	5



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* NOTE: ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.

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Sussex County Ranks third in Child Health, Top Ten in Child and Family Economics, Safety and Well-Being and Education in the 2018 NJ Kids Count County Rankings

Sussex County ranked third in child health among all of New Jersey's 21 counties – its highest ranking among all four domains of child well-being. According to the annual state Kids Count county rankings and profiles released today by Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ), Sussex County placed in the top ten for child and family economics, safety and well-being and education.

The rankings, which compare counties on 12 measures of child well-being, and across four domains – economic, health, safety and well-being, and education – provide a closer look at how children are faring in various parts of the state, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live. The pocket guide — ***New Jersey Kids Count 2018: The State of Our Counties*** — released today, provides a multiyear comparison of county-by-county child trend data across 42 measures of child well-being.

“Once again, the data shows different conditions for children living in each county, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live,” said Cecilia Zalkind, president and CEO of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which produces the Kids Count reports. “We hope that these county profiles will encourage community leaders to see these data and implement changes that will target resources and continue to improve the lives of the children in Sussex County.”

Sussex County ranks:

7th in Child and Family Economics: In 2016, 7 percent of Sussex County's roughly 29,000 children lived in poverty, compared to 15 percent of the state child population. The unemployment rate, at 4.4, was lower than the state's rate of 4.6, and rental costs proved to be a burden to many Sussex County households with 47 percent spending 30 percent or more of their income on rent.

3rd in Child Health: Sussex County held a low percentage for children under age 6 receiving a blood lead test in 2016 at 11 percent, far below the state average of 27 percent. Consistent with state trends, fewer Sussex County children were without health insurance at 1.4 percent, compared with New Jersey's 3.5 percent. There was also room for improvement in the area of babies born with low birthweights. In 2016, 7.1 percent of Sussex County newborns were born weighing less than 5.5 pounds, compared to 5.6 percent in 2012.

6th in Safety and Well-Being: The percentage of teens not in school and not working, sometimes referred to as idle or disconnected youth, was 4 percent, exceeding the state's average of 6 percent. The county saw a decrease in substantiated or established cases of child abuse and neglect from 10.6 percent in 2012 to 9.2 percent in 2016. In Sussex County, juvenile arrests continued to decline, decreasing by 34 percent from 2012 to 2016.

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6th in Education: During the 2016-17 school year, graduation rates were above the state average at 95 percent, compared to New Jersey's 91 percent. That same year, 56 percent of Sussex County third graders met or exceeded expectations in the English Language Arts PARCC exams. And roughly 11 percent of students were chronically absent – missing 10 percent or more of the school year.

Note, ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain this year, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.

In addition to the county rankings, Advocates for Children of New Jersey also released its first ever ***Babies Count: A Statewide Profile of Infants and Toddlers***. This report offers a statewide profile of the Garden State's youngest children and identifies areas for improvement in child well-being.

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2018 Union County Profile

Quick Facts

Total Population	2016	555,630
Child Population	2016	131,300
Median Income of Families with Children	2016	\$81,093

Child and Family Economics

Domain Rank: 13

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Children Living Below the Poverty Threshold	2016	15	10
Percent of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Rent	2016	51	12
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	2017	4.8	13

Education

Domain Rank: 11*

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on 3rd Grade English Language Arts PARCC Exams	2016-17	48	14
High School Graduation Rate (Percent)	2016-17	88	15
Percent of Students Chronically Absent (K-12)	2015-16	9	10

Child Health

Domain Rank: 8

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Babies Born with Low Birthweight	2016	7.6	
Percent of Children Under Age 6 Tested for Lead	2016	34	
Percent of Children Under Age 18 Without Health Insurance	2016	5.3	

Safety and Well-Being

Domain Rank: 10

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Juvenile Arrest Rate (Per 1,000 Children under 18)	2016	5.8	3
Percent of Reported Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect	2016	9.3	13
Percent of Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Working and Not in School	2012-2016	7	14

* NOTE: ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.



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Union County Ranks Eighth in Child Health, Falls Behind in Child and Family Economics, Safety and Well-Being and Education in the 2018 NJ Kids Count County Rankings

Union County posted mixed progress, ranking 8th in New Jersey for child health, but was 10th in safety and well-being, 11th in education and 13th in child and family economics, according to the annual state Kids Count county rankings and profiles released today by Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ).

The rankings, which compare counties on 12 measures of child well-being, and across four domains – economic, health, safety and well-being, and education – provide a closer look at how children are faring in various parts of the state, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live. The pocket guide — ***New Jersey Kids Count 2018: The State of Our Counties*** — released today, provides a multiyear comparison of county-by-county child trend data across 42 measures of child well-being.

“Once again, the data shows different conditions for children living in each county, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live,” said Cecilia Zalkind, president and CEO of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which produces the Kids Count reports. “We hope that these county profiles will encourage community leaders to see these data and implement changes that will target resources and help improve the lives of the children in Union County.”

Union County ranks:

13th in Child and Family Economics: In 2016, 15 percent of Union County’s 131,300 children lived in poverty, in line with the New Jersey’s percentage. The unemployment rate, at 4.8, was higher than the state’s rate of 4.6, and rental costs proved to be a burden to many Union County households with 51 percent spending 30 percent or more of their income on rent.

Eighth in Child Health: Union County held a high spot for the percentage of children under age 6 receiving a blood lead test in 2016, far above the state average of 27 percent. Bucking state trends, more Union County children were without health insurance at 5.3 percent, compared with New Jersey’s 3.5 percent. There was also progress in the area of babies born with low birthweights. In 2016, 7.6 percent of Union County newborns were born weighing less than 5.5 pounds, compared to 8.1 percent of babies born statewide.

10th in Safety and Well-Being: The percentage of teens not in school and not working, sometimes referred to as idle or disconnected youth, was 7 percent, exceeding the state’s average of 6 percent. The county saw a decrease in substantiated or established cases of child abuse and neglect from 10.3 percent in 2012 to 9.3 percent in 2016. In Union County, juvenile arrests continued to decline, decreasing by 40 percent from 2012 to 2016.

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11th in Education: During the 2016-17 school year, graduation rates were below the state average at 88 percent, compared to New Jersey's 91 percent. That same year, 48 percent of Union County third graders met or exceeded expectations in the English Language Arts PARCC exams. And roughly 9 percent of students were chronically absent – missing 10 percent or more of the school year.

Note, ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain this year, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.

In addition to the county rankings, Advocates for Children of New Jersey also released its first ever ***Babies Count: A Statewide Profile of Infants and Toddlers***. This report offers a statewide profile of the Garden State's youngest children and identifies areas for improvement in child well-being.

To read the reports, visit 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 Kid Count grantee.



2018 Warren County Profile

Quick Facts

Total Population	2016	106,617
Child Population	2016	21,902
Median Income of Families with Children	2016	\$86,336

Child and Family Economics

Domain Rank: 9

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Children Living Below the Poverty Threshold	2016	15	13
Percent of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Rent	2016	45	5
Unemployment Rate (Percent)	2017	4.2	9

Education

Domain Rank: 7*

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on 3rd Grade English Language Arts PARCC Exams	2016-17	49	11
High School Graduation Rate (Percent)	2016-17	93	7
Percent of Students Chronically Absent (K-12)	2015-16	7	5

Child Health

Domain Rank: 21

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Percent of Babies Born with Low Birthweight	2016	9.3	
Percent of Children Under Age 6 Tested for Lead	2016	13	
Percent of Children Under Age 18 Without Health Insurance	2016	6.4	

Safety and Well-Being

Domain Rank: 6

Indicator	Year	Data	Indicator Rank
Juvenile Arrest Rate (Per 1,000 Children under 18)	2016	6.3	4
Percent of Reported Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect	2016	9.1	10
Percent of Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Working and Not in School	2012-2016	6	11

* NOTE: ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.



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Advocates for Children of New Jersey is the trusted, independent voice putting children's needs first for 40 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.

NEWS



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Warren County Ranks Sixth in Safety and Well-Being, Last in Child Health in the 2018 NJ Kids Count County Rankings

Warren County ranked in the top 10 among the state in three domains of child well-being: safety, education and family economics. Yet, in child health, it placed 21st in the Garden State, showing areas for improvement, according to the annual state Kids Count county rankings and profiles released today by Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ).

The rankings, which compare counties on 12 measures of child well-being, and across four domains – economic, health, safety and well-being, and education – provide a closer look at how children are faring in various parts of the state, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live. The pocket guide — *New Jersey Kids Count 2018: The State of Our Counties* — released today, provides a multiyear comparison of county-by-county child trend data across 42 measures of child well-being.

“Once again, the data shows different conditions for children living in each county, often revealing a range of outcomes depending on where they live,” said Cecilia Zalkind, president and CEO of Advocates for Children of New Jersey, which produces the Kids Count reports. “We hope that these county profiles will encourage community leaders to see these data and implement changes that will target resources and help improve the lives of the children in Warren County.”

Warren County ranks:

9th in Child and Family Economics: In 2016, 15 percent of Warren County’s nearly 22,000 children lived in poverty, the same as New Jersey’s percentage. The unemployment rate, at 4.2, was lower than the state’s rate of 4.6, and rental costs proved to be a burden to many Warren County households with 45 percent spending 30 percent or more of their income on rent.

21st in Child Health: Warren County had a low percentage of children under age 6 receiving a blood lead test in 2016 at 13 percent, below the state average 27 percent. Bucking state trends, more Warren County children were without health insurance at 6.4 percent, compared with New Jersey’s 3.5 percent. There was also room for improvement in the area of babies born with low birthweights. In 2016, 9.3 percent of Warren County newborns were born weighing less than 5.5 pounds, compared to 8.1 percent of babies born statewide.

6th in Safety and Well-Being: The percentage of teens not in school and not working, sometimes referred to as idle or disconnected youth, was 6 percent, matching the state’s average. The county saw an increase in substantiated or established cases of child abuse and neglect from 6.9 percent in 2012 to

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9.1 percent in 2016. In Warren County, juvenile arrests continued to decline, decreasing by 38 percent from 2012 to 2016.

7th in Education: During the 2016-17 school year, graduation rates were above the state average at 93 percent, compared to New Jersey's 91 percent. That same year, 49 percent of Warren County third graders met or exceeded expectations in the English Language Arts PARCC exams. And roughly 7 of students were chronically absent – missing 10 percent or more of the school year.

Note, ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain this year, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.

In addition to the county rankings, Advocates for Children of New Jersey also released its first ever ***Babies Count: A Statewide Profile of Infants and Toddlers***. This report offers a statewide profile of the Garden State's youngest children and identifies areas for improvement in child well-being.

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New Jersey Kids Count 2018 County Profiles

Sources and Technical Notes

Note, ACNJ omitted school breakfast participation from the education domain, replacing it with third grade English Language Arts PARCC results. **Due to this change, comparisons should not be made to the 2017 education domain rank.**

Child and Family Economics

Percentage of Children Living Below the Poverty Threshold, 2016. The percentage of children under age 18 living in families earning below 100 percent of the federal poverty threshold, as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B17001.

Unemployment Rate, 2017. As reported by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. The Bureau of Labor Statistics defines an unemployed person as someone who does not have a job, has actively looked for work in the prior four weeks, and is currently available for work. Rates are not seasonally adjusted and are annual averages for each year.

Percentage of Households Spending More Than 30% of Income on Rent, 2016. As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B25070.

Child Health

Percentage of Babies Born with Low Birthweight, 2016. The percentage of babies weighing less than 2,500 grams out of total live births for the given year, as reported by the N.J. Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data. Data retrieved June 4, 2018

Percentage of Children Under Age 18 without Health Insurance, 2016. As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B27001.

Percentage of Children Under Age 6 Tested for Lead, 2016. As reported by the N.J. Department of Health, Public Health Services Branch, Division of Family Health Services, Annual Childhood Lead Exposure reports.

Safety and Well-Being

Percentage of Reported Children with Substantiated/Established Findings of Abuse/Neglect, 2016. Based on the number of children found to be substantiated or established victims of child abuse/neglect out of the number of children reported for abuse/neglect. As reported by the N.J. Department of Children and Families for each calendar year. In 2013, the N.J. Department of Children and Families added two possible findings of child abuse neglect investigations—established and not established. Previously, investigators could only determine whether reported abuse/neglect was substantiated or unfounded.

Percentage of Teens Ages 16 to 19 Not Working and Not in School, 2012-2016. As reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey chart B14005, 5-year estimates.

Juvenile Arrests (rate per 1,000 under age 18), 2016. The number of juveniles under age 18 arrested per 1,000 youth under age 18. As reported by the N.J. Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of State Police, Uniform Crime Reports.

Education

Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding Expectations on 3rd Grade PARCC Exams, 2016-17. As reported by the N.J. Department of Education for exams taken in the spring of the school year listed. Percentage meeting or exceeding expectations are those students scoring Level 4 or Level 5. County percentage meeting or exceeding expectation calculated by ACNJ.

Percentage of Students Chronically Absent, 2015-16. As reported by the N.J. Department of Education end of school year data submission and specific district 2014-15 school year data from Community Charter School of Paterson, Closter Borough, Freehold Township, Maria Varisco-Rogers Charter School, Newark Prep Charter School, Pace Charter School of Hamilton, Palisades Park and Wharton Borough. Data for students enrolled in grades K-12. Chronically absent students are those missing 10 percent or more of total enrolled school days, including suspensions and both excused and unexcused absences.

High School Graduation Rates, 2016-17. As reported by the N.J. Department of Education, Adjusted 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate Data for the school year ending in June. County adjusted 4-year cohort graduation rates calculated by ACNJ.