



# NEW JERSEY Kids Count 2006

The State of Children in Our State



Association for Children  
of New Jersey

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**Association for Children of New Jersey**

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The Association for Children of New Jersey is a statewide child research and action organization.



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[www.acnj.org](http://www.acnj.org)  
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For additional statistics, including county and city-level data, please go to [www.acnj.org](http://www.acnj.org) or visit the Annie E. Casey Foundation's CLIKS website at [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org).

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**B**y making substantial investments in children, New Jersey has demonstrated that it is possible to improve outcomes for children and families. New Jersey also illustrates, however, the deep disparities that continue to exist between children growing up in wealthy families and those in families struggling to make ends meet.

As we begin 2006, with a new governor and promises for a new direction in the state, the Association for Children of New Jersey offers this annual look at the state of well-being of the children in our state. It is our hope this statistical portrait will be used to help craft public policies that benefit all New Jersey children and families, paving a way to a brighter future for children and, indeed, the state as a whole.

## The State of Children in New Jersey

New Jersey invests in kids. That investment pays off in many ways. On average, our students score higher on national achievement tests. They are more likely to attend a high-quality preschool. Mothers and infants are, by certain measures, healthier than children in other parts of the country. And, our adolescents are less likely to drop out of high school or be without a job or schooling in their teen and early adult years.

These above-average outcomes can be largely attributed to the fact that New Jersey is also one of the wealthiest states in the nation. With an average annual household income of \$75,000, many New Jersey families can afford to give their children the best possible start in life.

But many cannot. And that is where the snapshot of the state of our children begins to dim.

More than 250,000 children are growing up in poor families. About 538,000 kids live in low-income families that struggle to pay the rent and put food on the table. The number of immigrant families is growing. Children in these families suffer from poverty at high rates.

While New Jersey offers an array of support programs, most fall short of need, with a minority of eligible children participating in nutrition programs that can ensure healthy growth and school success. Only a fraction of low-income families participate in asset-building programs that could help them achieve financial security.

While health outcomes overall are improving, racial disparities persist, with minority children more likely to die in their first year of life and most minority mothers less likely to receive early prenatal care.

And, the system responsible for protecting abused and neglected children still shows signs of failing to identify and help children who may be in harm's way.

Some of these racial and economic gaps are closing—but only due to sustained public and political will to finally address these problems that prevent every child from achieving her full potential.

Substantial investments in public education for poor children are paying off with more low-income children passing state tests. Public funding of preschool means thousands of our youngest students are getting an early start on learning that can guarantee later school success. And, continued attention to prominent health issues, such as lead poisoning, has resulted in more children being tested and treated.

But we still have a long way to go before we can say the state of all our children is healthy and bright, no matter their address or their racial background. Following is a summary of areas of progress, as documented in **New Jersey Kids Count 2006**, and areas that must be addressed as we move into the second half of the first decade of the new century.

### Gained Ground

- The number of children immunized by age 2, screened for lead poisoning, dental problems and other illnesses have all improved since 2000.
- Infant mortality dropped 14 percent from 1999 to 2003.
- FamilyCare and Medicaid enrollments increased 13 and 7 percent, respectively, from 2002 to 2005.
- Pre-k enrollment continues to climb, especially for full-day programs, with 81 percent of children enrolled in state-approved preschool attending full-day classrooms.
- Low-income fourth-graders posted a 14 percent increase in the percent passing state language arts tests and a 35 percent improvement in math tests, compared to 4 and 9 percent, respectively, for all students.

### Lost Ground

- The number of children growing up in poverty or in working poor families is growing. In 2004, 538,000 New Jersey children lived in poor or working poor families, earning less than \$37,700 for a family of four.

- In 2004, 80 percent of low-income households spent more than the recommended 30 percent of income on rent, making New Jersey the worst in the nation on this measure of child well-being.
- Only 35 percent of female-headed households received child support in 2003.
- The number of uninsured children increased a disturbing 51 percent from 2000 to 2004, when 12 percent of New Jersey children were uninsured. The numbers are even higher for Hispanic children at 22 percent and black children at 17 percent.
- Much of the growth in New Jersey's child poverty can be attributed to the growing number of immigrant children.

### Covering Ground

- New Jersey posted increases in the number of participants in all three major nutrition programs: food stamps, free- and reduced-price lunch and Woman, Infant and Children (WIC). But the state still lags behind national averages.
- The number of children entering out-of-home care increased 16 percent from 2001 to 2004, while the number exiting care soared 46 percent during that same time.
- While more children are being screened for mental, dental and health problems, thousands still go without early detection and treatment.

## Make Kids Count

Historically, children's issues have ranked low on the political spectrum, taking a backseat to other statewide issues. It is time for that to change. In June 2005, ACNJ launched the **Make Kids Count NJ** campaign, aimed at telling state leaders that New Jersey voters want children's issues to be a top priority in this state. The campaign targets three primary areas of child well-being: expanding pre-k and other early learning opportunities, strengthening working families and protecting abused and neglected children. In just six months, more than 6,000 New Jersey voters have signed on to support the campaign. These residents have sent thousands of messages to gubernatorial candidates, legislators and policymakers, elevating awareness of issues that affect all New Jersey children and families.

As we move into a new year, with new state leadership, it is time for New Jersey policymakers to craft a long-term strategy for improving the health, safety and education of children across the state. This vision should be outlined in broad terms, with specific steps along the way—steps that will ultimately lead us to achieve the shared goal of creating a bright future for all New Jersey children.

## A New Direction for NJ Kids Count

This year's New Jersey Kids Count is different from the databooks that ACNJ has published for the past 11 years. A richer array of state-level data makes it possible to draw a more in-depth picture of the state of New Jersey's children. ACNJ felt it was important to compile this statewide picture as a new governor gathers the reins of leadership in our state and the public continues to show widespread support for investing in children. Together, these two factors present a powerful opportunity to change the course of the lives of so many children, leading both New Jersey children and the state to a brighter future.

Technology also influenced our decision to publish a smaller, more state-focused report. Widespread use of the Internet means we can electronically publish more detailed data for New Jersey's counties and cities. We encourage our Kids Count readers to use these valuable online tools at both our website, [www.acnj.org](http://www.acnj.org), and the Annie E. Casey Foundation's CLIKS website, [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org), which allows users to map and graph trend data for New Jersey, other states and the nation.

For those without Internet connection, ACNJ will continue to make available hard copies of select data. For more information, contact Nancy Parello, Kids Count coordinator, [nparello@acnj.org](mailto:nparello@acnj.org).



## Section 1:

# New Jersey Children and Families

**N**ew Jersey is home to nearly 8.7 million people, including more than 2.1 million children. Twenty-six percent of these children are growing up in single-parent households, while 3 percent are cared for by grandparents.

New Jersey is a diverse state. In fact, New Jersey's 3 percent growth in child population can be mostly attributed to minorities, with Asian and mixed-race children being the fastest growing populations.

New Jersey is also a wealthy state. In 2004, the annual household income for families with children was \$75,000—the highest in the nation.

### NJ Kids Count Trends

- From 2000 to 2004, New Jersey child and total population grew 3 percent.
- From 2000 to 2004, the number of white children declined 1 percent, while the number of Asian and mixed-race children both grew 17 percent and the number of Hispanic children increased 14 percent.
- The number of children living in immigrant families jumped 10 percent from 2000 to 2004.

## Demographics

	2000	2003	2004	% Change*
Total Population	8,414,350	8,638,396	8,698,879	3
Child Population	2,091,393	2,137,696	2,156,059	3
Child Population 0-4	562,513	571,925	581,467	3
Median Family Income (w/child)	65,000	69,100	75,000	15

## Family Structure

	2000	2003	2004	% Change
Children in single-parent families	522,000	568,000	562,000	8
Percent children in single-parent families	25	27	26	4
Children in HH w/caregiving grandparent	79,000	92,000	70,000	-11
Percent children in HH w/caregiving grandparent	4	4	3	-25

## Child Population By Race

	2000	2003	2004	% Change
White	1,252,751	1,239,317	1,236,064	-1
Black	332,924	336,104	337,626	1
Asian	127,415	144,279	149,677	17
Hispanic	341,041	376,604	389,827	14
Two or more races (non-Hispanic)	33,345	37,661	39,170	17
Other (single race)	3,917	3,731	3,695	-6

## Immigrant Families

	2000	2003	2004	% Change
Children in immigrant families	552,000	620,000	609,000	10
Percent children in immigrant families	26	29	28	8

**\*Note:** All percent changes are calculated from the base year to most current year.



## Section 2:

# The State of Family Economics

**N**ew Jersey families need to earn about \$40,000 a year just to make ends meet, according to Legal Services of New Jersey's self-sufficiency standard. Hundreds of thousands of working parents—in the cities, suburbs and rural areas—lack this level of income, sometimes forcing parents to choose between paying the rent and feeding their children. That hurts kids. A hungry child cannot grow into a good student. Instead of mastering the alphabet, a homeless child will worry about where he will sleep that night. And working parents are hard-pressed to nurture their children when they juggle two or three jobs just to make ends meet.

Children who grow up in poverty are much more likely to perform poorly in school, suffer health problems and rely on public assistance as adults. Addressing the needs of these families benefits all

New Jersey residents. Not only does it help children grow up healthy, it also strengthens New Jersey with a broader tax base, more children succeeding in school and fewer families requiring state assistance.

### NJ Kids Count Trends

- From 2000 to 2004, New Jersey saw an 18 percent increase in the number of poor children and a 4 percent increase in the number of children growing up in low-income working families.
- In 2004, more than a half million New Jersey children lived in poor or working poor families, earning less than 200 percent of the federal poverty line.
- At the same time, the median household income rose 15 percent to \$75,000 per year—the highest in the nation.

## Child Poverty by Percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

	2000	2003	2004	% Change
Children below 50% FPL	103,000	120,000	110,000	7
Percent children in extreme poverty	5	6	5	0
Children below 100% FPL	213,000	246,000	251,000	18
Percent children in poverty	10	12	12	20
Children below 150% FPL	354,000	395,000	392,000	11
Percent children at 150% FPL	17	19	18	6
Children below 200% FPL	515,000	563,000	538,000	4
Percent children below 200% FPL	25	27	25	0
Children under 5 below 100% FPL	57,000	81,000	70,000	23
Percent children under 5 below 100% FPL	10	15	13	30

## Children of Immigrants Account for Growing Child Poverty

Much of the growth in New Jersey's child poverty can be attributed to the growing number of immigrant children. In 2003, 15 percent of New Jersey children lived in homes where parents cannot speak fluent English. New Jersey ranked 44th in the nation on this predictor of poverty.

In 2003, nearly half of low-income New Jersey children had at least one parent who was born outside the United States. That compares to the national average of 29 percent.

The state faces unique challenges in reaching these families, as cultural and racial differences erect barriers to providing supports and pathways to helping these children achieve their full potential.

### Immigrant Families

	Rank
Percent children in home w/limited English proficiency, 2003	44
Children in immigrant families, 2004	43

Key: NJ National

### Immigration and Poverty, 2003

	New Jersey FPL		National FPL	
	Below 200%	At or Above 200%	Below 200%	At or Above 200%
Children born outside the US	11	2	7	3
Children's mother was born outside US	44	17	27	10
Child's father was born outside the US	56	18	31	10
At least one parent born outside the US	47	21	29	14
Both parents born outside the US	44	13	25	7

## Family Poverty

	2000	2003	2004	% Change
Single parents below poverty	68,000	83,000	76,000	12
Percent single parents below poverty	23	26	25	9
Children living in families w/no parent w/full-time, year-round employment	553,000	573,000	595,000	8
Percent children in families w/no parent w/full-time, year-round employment	26	27	28	8

## Supporting Parents

To raise healthy children who are ready for school success, parents need stable jobs and decent, affordable housing. In New Jersey, many parents, including a growing number of immigrants, scrape by with seasonal or part-time work, often living paycheck to paycheck. When parents are stressed about their family's economic security, their ability to raise safe, healthy children is challenged.

## Kids Count Trends

- In 2004, 76,000 single parents earned less than the federal poverty level of \$15,670 for a family of three.
- New Jersey saw an 8 percent increase in the number of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment, for a total of 595,000 children in 2004.
- New Jersey's unemployment rate of 4 percent was below the national average of 5.6 in 2005.
- Eighty percent of low-income households with children spent more than the recommended 30 percent of income on rent in 2004, far above the national average of 62 percent in 2004.

## Unemployment

	2001	2004	2005	% Change
New Jersey	173,791	207,114	177,656	2
Rate	4	4.7	4	0
U.S. Rate	4.5	5.6	5.6	24

## Housing

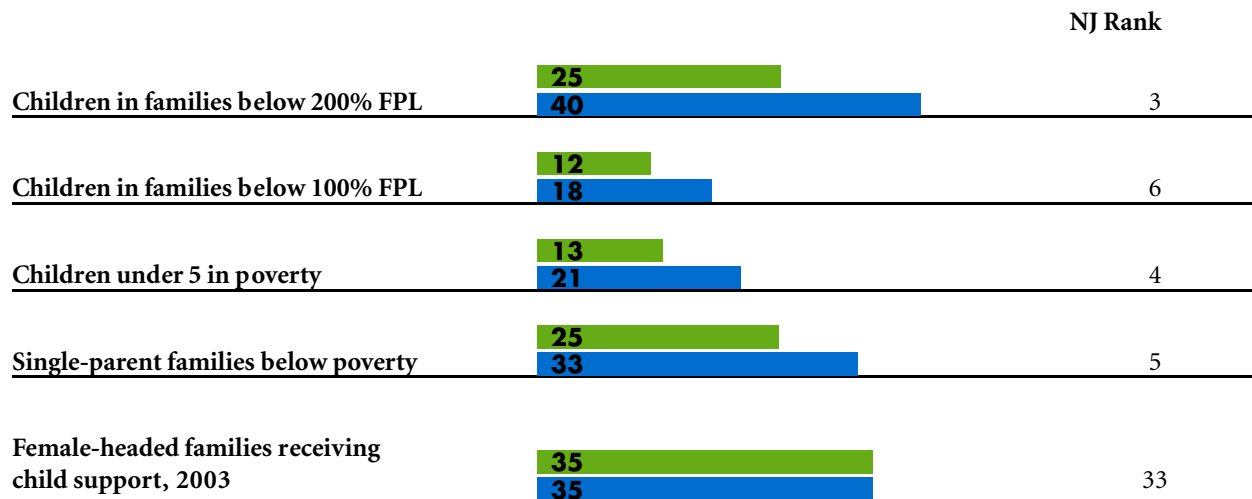
	2000	2003	2004	% Change
Low-income HH paying too much for rent	379,000	408,000	431,000	14
Percent low-income HH paying too much for rent	74	72	80	8
Children living in crowded housing	211,000	220,000	230,000	9
Percent children living in crowded housing	10	10	11	10

## How Does New Jersey Compare?

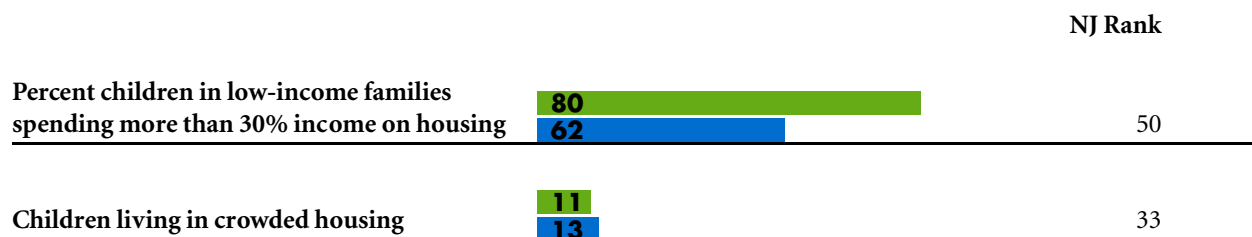
On average, New Jersey fares better than the rest of the nation in measures of family wealth, ranking between 3rd and 6th on most measures of family poverty. Low-income families, however, are much more likely to spend too much of their income on rent than families in other parts of the nation. New Jersey also lags in the percent of female-headed families receiving child support.



### Family Economics: NJ vs. US, 2004 (Percent)



### Housing: NJ Vs US, 2004



Key: ■ NJ  
■ US

## Combating Poverty and Building Assets

Like many states, New Jersey has taken a patchwork approach toward alleviating poverty, with programs often falling short of need, leaving thousands of families unable to find help or participate in asset-building strategies.

### NJ Kids Count Trends

- Only 35 percent of female-headed households received child support in 2003.
- Fewer workers claimed state tax credits in 2004 than in 2003.
- New Jersey posted increases in the number of participants in all three major nutrition programs: food stamps, free- and reduced-price lunch and Woman, Infant and Children (WIC). But the percent of eligible people who participate remains low.
- While the number of Section 8 housing vouchers increased 8 percent from 2000 to 2004, expenditures for the federal program dropped 13 percent.

## Building Assets for Financial Security

### Child Support

	1999	2002	2003	% Change
Female-headed families receiving child support	59,000	59,000	65,000	10
Percent female-headed families receiving support	36	31	35	-3

	2000	2003	2004	% Change
Percent of cases w/support orders	74	80	80	8
Child support collection rates	63	65	65	3
Total open cases	429,010	416,780	424,274	-1
Open TANF and foster care child support cases	172,352	156,426	154,902	-10
Percent TANF cases w/arrears	56	56	53	-5

### Tax Credits

	2001	2003	2004	% Change
State Earned Income Tax Credit filers	214,019	220,753	210,996	-1
Average state EITC check	\$360	\$519	\$537	49
Federal Earned Income Tax Credit filers	353,430	465,748	465,854	32
Average Federal EITC check	\$1,257	\$1,709	\$1,757	40

## Anti-Poverty Supports

	2001	2004	2005	% Change
Children receiving TANF	71,212	68,312	71,539	.5
Children receiving food stamps	146,299	174,841	184,327	26
Children receiving school lunch	362,989	371,744	380,741	5
Women, infants, children receiving nutritional support	148,046	161,981	164,085	11

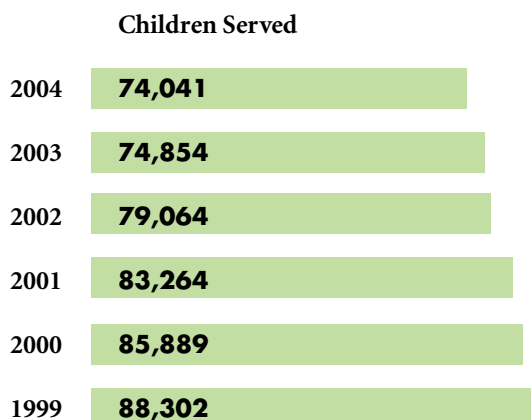
## Housing Supports

	2000	2003	2004	% Change
Section 8 housing vouchers	60,442	64,461	65,156	8

	1999	2002	2003	% Change
Section 8 expenditures	\$1,053,648	\$768,075	\$913,004	-13

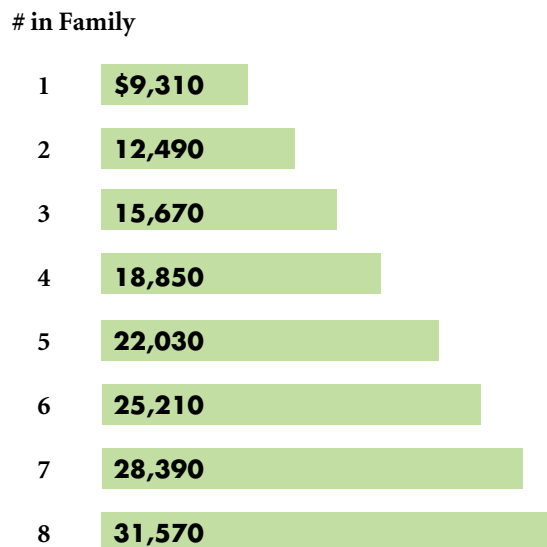
### Child Care Subsidies



**Percent Change: -16**

*Note: Above numbers do not count children attending state-funded preschools that receive Department of Human Services child care subsidies, which could account for some of the decrease in the number of children served through the New Jersey Cares for Kids program.*

### 2004 Federal Poverty Levels (FPL)



**For each additional person add \$3,180.**

## Participation in Nutrition Program Still Falls Short

While the number of children receiving food stamps has climbed, the state still lags behind the nation in providing this important nutritional supplement to all eligible children.

The same is true for school breakfast. More low-income children are receiving a healthy breakfast to start their school day, but New Jersey still ranked 43 in the U.S. when comparing the ratio of children in the lunch program who also received a healthy breakfast.

### Food Stamp Participation Rates

	1999	2002	2003
NJ	54	45	47
US	61	54	56

### School Breakfast

	2003–2004	2004–2005
Number of NJ children receiving school breakfast	82,220	114,387
Participation ratio	26	36
NJ Rank	50	43

New Jersey has also increased the percent of the eligible population participating in the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program to 65 percent in 2004, up from a low of 58 percent in 1999. That is still below the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services' goal to have 83 percent of the eligible population participating in this program that provides nutritional supplements to pregnant women and infants.

	1999	2003	2004
Percent of eligible WIC population served	58	63	65

### How Does New Jersey Compare?

New Jersey residents are less likely to receive public support than people in other parts of the country. Only 12 percent of New Jersey low-income households received any form of cash assistance in 2003, compared to 14 percent nationally. New Jersey children are also less likely to live in families receiving public support, with a lower-than-average percent receiving WIC, food stamps and free- and reduced-price lunch.

### Family Supports NJ vs. US, 2003

	NJ	U.S.
Percent households received cash assistance in past year	12	14
Percent households receiving WIC benefits	21	27
Percent children (3 and older) received school lunch in past year	67	68
Percent children received food stamps in past year	24	34

Note: Statistics in above chart only count children living in families earning less than 200% FPL.





## Section 3:

# The State of Child Health

**T**o succeed in school and later in life, children must have early healthcare to prevent childhood illness.

Research shows that insured children are more likely to get the preventive medical care that can keep them healthy. It is also proven that child health problems, when caught early, can be more easily treated.

New Jersey is doing a better job of screening children for illness and providing preventive medicine. The number of children immunized by age 2, screened for lead poisoning, dental problems and other health problems have all improved since 2000. Still, the starting point for these indicators was low, so the state still has a way to go before ensuring that all children receive needed early intervention and preventive medicine.

New Jersey has lost ground in efforts to insure more children, with the number of uninsured children steadily climbing since 2000. In 2004, 12 percent of

New Jersey children, numbering 259,000, lacked health insurance.

There has been some improvement in the percent of uninsured low-income children, which declined 4 percent from 2001 to 2004. This is likely due to state efforts to enroll more children in FamilyCare, the state's low-cost health insurance program. Recent changes to the program are aimed at making it easier for parents to enroll and re-enroll their children, hopefully further improving this important measure of child well-being.

The picture for uninsured children worsens when examining racial breakdowns. From 2001 to 2003, an average of 22 percent of Hispanic children, 17 percent of black children and 12 percent of Asian children were uninsured, compared to 7 percent of white children.

New Jersey has also posted mixed results in health outcomes. Infant and child mortality continue to decline. But, the number of low birth-weight babies, births to unmarried females and child asthma admissions to the hospital via the emergency room are all on the rise.

### NJ Kids Count Trends

- The number of New Jersey children who lack health insurance increased 51 percent from 2000 to 2004.
- FamilyCare and Medicaid enrollments increased 13 and 7 percent, respectively, from 2002 to 2005.
- Infant mortality dropped 14 percent from 1999 to 2003.
- The number of children screened for lead poisoning increased 26 percent from 2000 to 2003, while those who showed dangerously high levels of lead dropped 25 percent.
- Participation in the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment program jumped 59 percent from 2000 to 2003.
- In 2004, 85 percent of New Jersey children were immunized by age 2, surpassing the national average of 80 percent.

## Healthy Starts

	1999	2002	2003	% Change
Total Births	113,810	114,642	116,823	3
Low birth-weight babies	9,059	8,921	9,244	2
Percent of low birth-weight babies	8	8	8	0
Pregnant women receiving late or no prenatal care	28,387	26,432	27,685	-2
Percent of pregnant women receiving late or no prenatal care	25	23	24	-4
Births to unmarried females	31,898	33,305	33,879	6
Percent of births to unmarried females	28	29	29	4
Birth to teens	8,225	7,328	7,119	-13
Percent of births to teens	7	6	6	-14

## Percent of Mothers Receiving First Trimester Prenatal Care, By Race

	1999	2003	% Change
White	81	82	1
Black	60	63	5
Hispanic	67	68	1
Asian	79	84	6
Other	63	67	6



## Preventing Childhood Illness

	2000	2003	2004	% Change
2-year-olds who were immunized	77	77	85	10
	2000	2002	2003	% Change
Children tested for lead	137,536	171,712	172,932	26
Children w/high levels of lead	6,932	5,457	5,230	-25
Early detection participant rate*	32	48	51	59
Early detection screening rate*	50	71	73	46
Early detection dental services*	83,934	107,017	108,337	29

\*Numbers represent children participating in the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment program.

## Covering Kids

	2002	2004	2005	% Change
Children enrolled in Medicaid	377,941	389,650	404,679	7
Children enrolled in FamilyCare	96,731	104,227	109,078	13

## Uninsured Children

	2000	2003	2004	% Change
Children w/o health insurance	171,000	237,000	259,000	51
Percent children w/o health insurance	9	11	12	33

## Low-Income Uninsured Children

3-Year Averages



### Percent of Uninsured Children, By Race



## Child Death/Illness

	1999	2002	2003	% Change
Infant Mortality	770	651	662	-14
Infant Mortality rate/1,000 children	6.8	5.7	5.7	-16
Child Deaths	280	281	255	-9
Teen Deaths	228	264	240	5
Asthma admissions to hospital	6,052	4,923	5,845	-3
Asthma admissions to hospital via ER	3,810	3,178	4,023	6

	2002	2003	2004	% Change
Children living w/ HIV/AIDS	506	702	575	14

## Healthy New Jersey 2010 Sets Goals

**H**ealthy New Jersey 2010 is a set of health objectives that New Jersey aims to achieve over the first decade of the new century. By 2010, New Jersey aspires to increase the length and quality of the lives of its residents, and to reduce or eliminate racial and ethnic disparities, according to the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, which oversees the initiative.

*Healthy New Jersey 2010* was developed through a broad consultation process, built on scientific knowledge and designed to measure programs over time. The initiative provides a common tool for advancing public health in the state through health promotion and disease prevention activities.

Here is a partial list of goals that match indicators tracked each year in New Jersey Kids Count, along with the state's progress toward reaching those goals.

### Healthy New Jersey 2010 Goals

	Target	Most Recent Data	Year
Reduce the rate of infant mortality per 1,000 live births	4.4	5.7	2003
Increase the percent of vaccinated 2-year-olds	90	85	2004
Reduce the percent of low birth-weight infants	6	8	2003
Increase the percent of mothers who receive prenatal care in the first trimester	85	76	2003
Reduce the percent of uninsured children	5	12	2004
Increase the percent of children 2 and under screened for lead poisoning	85	69	2003
Reduce the percent of tested children 2 years and under with high lead levels	2.5	3	2003

### How Does New Jersey Compare?

New Jersey is on par with national averages when measuring children's overall health. It lags when ranked against other states in terms of the percent of uninsured children and pulled ahead of national averages in the percent of 2-year-olds who are immunized.

### Child Health: NJ vs. US

Percent children in overall good health, 2003

NJ	84
National	84

Percent children w/o health insurance, 2004

NJ	12
National	11

Percent 2-year-olds immunized, 2004

NJ	85
National	80

Key: NJ National



## Section 4:

# The State of Early Care and Education

Children are born learners. During the first five years of life, their bodies and brains grow faster than at any other time. Studies prove investments in early care and education reap big benefits for children and taxpayers.

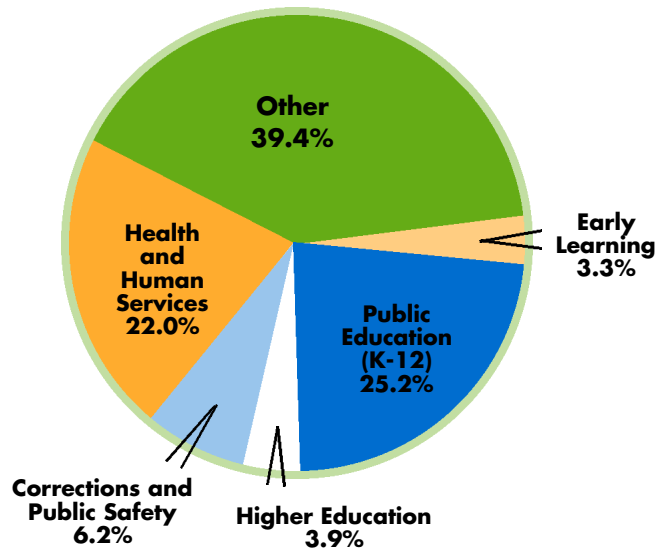
Children who participate in effective early learning programs are more likely to finish school, go to college and land decent jobs. They are less likely to need special education or be held back in school, easing the burden on public schools that now struggle to help children catch up.

Early care and education means reliable, affordable child care, quality preschool and adequate health care. It also means strengthening and supporting parents, which is why ACNJ has included new indicators in this section that measure a family's stability and ability to provide their children with healthy activities.

### NJ Kids Count Trends

- Full-day pre-k enrollments continue to climb, with 81 percent of preschoolers who attend state-approved programs enrolled in full-day programs in the 2004-05 school year.
- New Jersey spends just 3.3 percent of its total general fund expenditures on programs that help babies grow.
- The number of accredited early childhood education programs has soared since 1993, with nearly 9,300 programs now meeting nationally-recognized standards.
- Low-income New Jersey children are more likely to spend time watching TV, playing video games or on the computer and less likely to participate in a club, team sport or other similar activity.

## New Jersey's Investment in Early Learning Lags



Source: *Early Learning Left Out*, Voices for America's Children and Family Policy Center, February 2004.

## Early Care

	2002	2004	2005	% Change
Licensed child care centers	4,066	4,192	4,301	6
Child care center capacity	288,301	306,034	327,742	14
Registered family child care providers	4,671	3,647	3,411	-27

## Head Start

	2000	2003	2004	% Change
Head Start enrollment	14,567	15,099	15,130	4
Head Start allocation	\$105m	\$127m	\$128m	22

## Early Education

	1999-00	2003-04	2004-05	% Change
Pre-k enrollments (Total)	14,194	46,383	47,957	238
Half-day pre-k enrollments	9,792	9,816	9,146	-7
Full-day pre-k enrollments	4,402	36,567	38,811	782
Kindergarten enrollments	89,593	91,684	91,144	2
Half-day kindergarten enrollments	43,604	35,722	33,551	-23
Full-day kindergarten enrollments	45,989	55,962	57,593	25

	2000	2003	2004	% Change
Percent of children enrolled in nursery school, preschool or kindergarten (3-5)	65	68	72	11

## Accreditation

The number of accredited early childhood education programs



## Parent Support/Stability, 2003

	Families Below 200% FPL	Families At or Above 200% FPL
Parent in excellent/very good physical health	43%	76%
Parent is in excellent/very good mental health	58%	82%
Parent has someone to turn to for day-to-day emotional help with parenthood/raising children	66%	93%
During the past 12 months/since child's birth, someone in the family quit a job, did not take a job, or greatly changed job because of problems with child care.	21%	12%
Child has moved two or more times	47%	30%
No one in the household was employed at least 50 out of the past 52 weeks	18%	4%

## How Kids Spend Their Time, 2003

	Families Below 200% FPL	Families At or Above 200% FPL
During the past 12 months, child (age 6-17 years) participates in some type of team, club or activity	66%	91%
Child attends some type of non-parental child care	65%	71%
Child (age 6-11 years) spends time caring for him/herself	10%	17%
Child attends religious activity at least once per week	49%	50%
Child spends 3-4.9 hours watching TV, playing video games or on computer	39%	29%
Child spends 5 or more hours watching TV, playing video games or on computer	16%	10%

## How Does New Jersey Compare?

New Jersey is a national leader in providing high-quality preschool to low-income children, with nearly 48,000 children enrolled in these programs throughout the state. The state ranks first in the nation in the percent of children, ages 3-4, that attend early learning programs.

### Early Education, 2004

Percent children, 3-4, enrolled in nursery school or preschool.



Key: NJ  
US





## Section 5:

# The State of Child Protection

**A**bused and neglected children are the most vulnerable of our citizens. When a child is hurt by those who should love and protect him, the state must step in. The state must also help parents before they hurt their children. Keeping families safely together is always the best outcome. But, when children must be removed from their families, the state, in essence, becomes the parent. Until a child can go back home or move into a permanent, adoptive family, the state must be a vigilant parent.

New Jersey is in the midst of a major overhaul of its child protection system. While some improvements have been made, the state and the community still have much work ahead before every New Jersey child is safe and growing up in a stable, loving, permanent home.

### NJ Kids Count Trends

- The number of children under the supervision of the state Division of Youth and Family Services increased 25 percent from 2001 to 2005.
- The number of children entering out-of-home care increased 16 percent from 2001 to 2004, but the number exiting care soared 46 percent.
- The number of adoptions finalized through DYFS increased 36 percent from 2001 to 2004.
- In 2004, 2 percent of children in foster care were abused by their state-approved caregivers.

## Child Abuse

	2000	2003	2004	% Change
Number of children reported for abuse/neglect	39,176	42,149	42,825*	9
Number of children reported for family problems	34,604	42,732	N/A	23
Rate/1000 children	17	20	N/A	18
Number of children found to be abused/neglected	8,715	8,236	7,602*	-13
Percent substantiated	22	20	18	-18

\*Note: These are preliminary figures.

## Permanent Homes for Children

	2001	2004	2005	% Change
Children under state supervision*	41,736	52,794	51,991	25
Children in out-of-home placements	10,586	11,838	11,077	5
Children entering out-of-home care	6,268	7,281	N/A	16
Children exiting out-of-home care	5,440	7,922	N/A	46
Number of in-state foster homes (unrelated)	3,288	2,806	2,760	-16
Number of in-state foster homes (related)	119	2,649	3,507	2,847
State finalized adoptions	1,035	1,410	N/A	36
State adoption placements	1,189	1,360	N/A	14

\*Includes all children under supervision of the state Division of Youth and Family Services living with their biological families.

	2003	2004	2005	% Change
Children legally free but not adopted	2,570	2,446	2,129	-17
Rate of children entering out-of-home care	3.8	3.4	N/A	-11

## Child Abuse in Foster Care

	2003	2004	% Change
Number of children abused in out-of-home care	236	253	7
Percent of children abused in out-of-home care	2	2	0

## How Does New Jersey Compare?

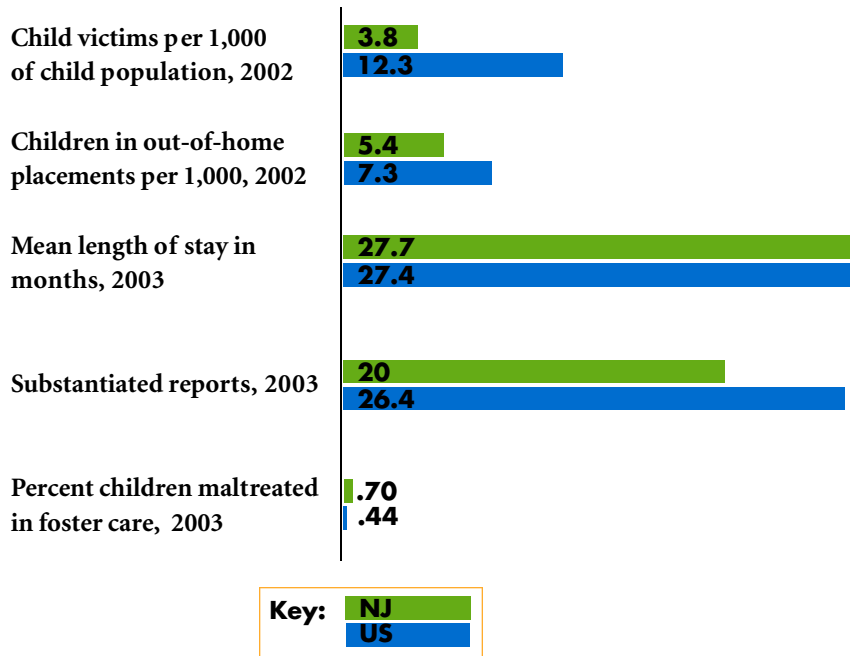
Despite widespread perceptions that New Jersey's child welfare system is among the worst in the nation, statistics suggest that New Jersey's abused and neglected children fare better in key ways than similar children in other parts of the country.

New Jersey's child victim rate is far below the U.S. rate, fewer children are in out-of-home care and length of stay in foster care is about equal to the national average.

However, New Jersey's rate of substantiation of child abuse reports is lower than national averages and the percent of children who are abused in foster care is higher, although this measure has improved in recent months and may now be closer to national averages. (Lack of more current national data prevents a more current comparison).



### Child Protection: NJ vs. US





## Section 6:

# The State of Youth and Teens

**F**ar from being ready to be on their own, young adults need guidance and supervision to safely and productively navigate the transition from child to adult. Many youth, especially those who grow up without a stable family, lack this support and need assistance to attain independence.

New Jersey teens have posted significant progress, especially in the area of juvenile detention. Fewer teens were arrested, sent to county detention or jailed in state facilities.

### NJ Kids Count Trends

- The number of teens not attending school or working increased 20 percent from 2000 to 2004.
- Twelve percent of people ages 18-24 have no job, are not in school and hold no degree beyond high school.
- Juvenile arrests dropped 8 percent from 2000 to 2004.
- Admissions to county detentions declined 15 percent from 2000 to 2004.
- The number of youth committed to state correctional facilities dropped 16 percent from 2000 to 2004.

## Disconnected Youth

	2000	2003	2004	% Change
Teens not attending school and not working	25,000	21,000	30,000	20
Percent teens not attending school/not working	7	5	7	0
People 18-24 not attending school, not working and no degree beyond high school	90,000	79,000	83,000	-8
Percent 18-24 not in school, not working, no degree beyond high school	15	12	12	-20

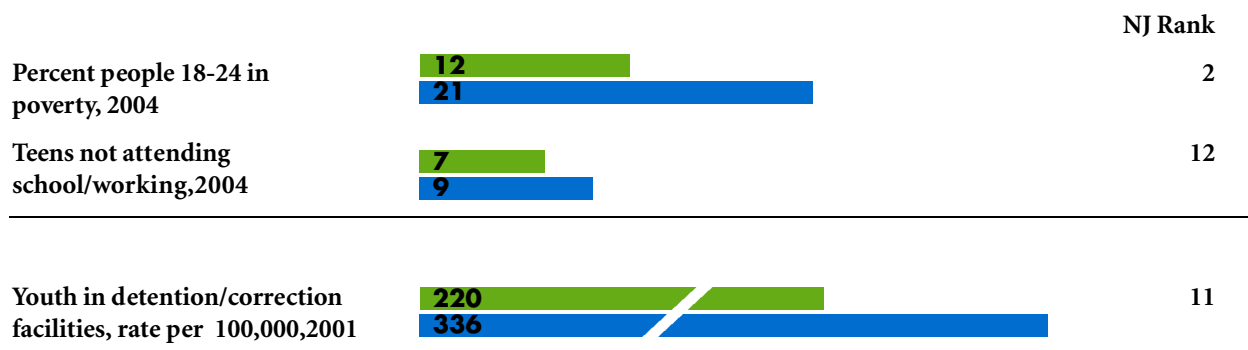
## Young Offenders

	2000	2003	2004	% Change
Juvenile arrests	67,532	62,668	61,907	-8
Juvenile commitments	1,078	1,159	908	-16
Admissions to juvenile county detention	13,212	11,972	11,169	-15
Average daily population as % of approved capacity	106	97	84	-21
Average length of stay in juvenile county detention	27	28	26	-4

## How Does New Jersey Compare?

New Jersey's youth, overall, fare better when compared to youth in other parts of the country, with lower-than-average dropout rates and juvenile arrests continuing to decline. Still, thousands of teenagers and young adults struggle each day to stay in school, find a job and live independently.

### Youth and Teens: NJ vs. US



Key: ■ NJ  
■ US



## Section 7:

# The State of Public Education

**W**ithout a solid education, children are unlikely to grow up to earn enough to provide for their own family. Increasingly, a college degree or other special skills are needed for adults to land a stable, well-paying job.

New Jersey invests in public education. And that investment pays off in above-average national test scores. Still, there is a wide disparity in student achievement, as children in the poor, mostly urban districts consistently score lower on both statewide and national achievement tests. The gap, however, does appear to be closing. Investments in improving education for low-income students are reaping some rewards, with test scores inching up, especially for younger students.

### NJ Kids Count Trends

- Low-income fourth-graders posted a 14 percent increase in the percent passing state language arts tests and 35 percent improvement in math tests, compared to 4 percent and 9 percent, respectively, for all students.
- Low-income 8th graders showed above state-average improvements in passing math, science and language arts tests.
- In 2004, just 43 percent of low-income 11th graders passed state math tests.

## New Jersey Students

	2000-01	2003-04	2004-05	% Change
Total enrollment	1,313,394	1,380,882	1,392,465	6
Special education enrollments	195,981	208,748	212,258	8
Percent special education students	15	15	15	0

## Children Passing State Assessment Tests

### Third Grade

2004

Language arts	79
Language arts (low-income)	61
Math	77
Math (low-income)	58

### 4th Grade

	2000-2001	2002-2003	2003-2004	% Change
Language arts	79	78	82	4
Language arts (low-income)	58	58	66	14
Math	66	68	72	9
Math (low-income)	40	47	54	35

### 8th Grade

	2000-2001	2002-2003	2003-2004	% Change
Language arts	73	74	72	-1
Language arts (low-income)	46	48	47	2
Math	62	57	62	0
Math (low-income)	33	30	36	9
Science	74	73	75	1
Science (low-income)	44	45	50	14

### 11th Grade

	2000-2001	2002-2003	2003-2004	% Change
Language arts	74	80	82	11
Language arts (low-income)	N/A	57	61	7
Math	79	66	70	-11
Math (low-income)	N/A	36	43	19

## School Violence/Substance Abuse, Number of Incidents

1999-2000	<b>21,683</b>
2001-2002	<b>24,973</b>
2003-2004	<b>20,207</b>

## New Jersey Education Levels

	2000	2003	2004	% Change
Percent of teens who are high school dropouts	8	4	5	-38
Children in HHs where head is a high school dropout	14	11	11	-21
Children in HHs where head has bachelor's degree or higher	35	35	36	3
Young adults enrolled or completed college	42	46	47	12
Children who speak a language other than English at home	24	23	24	0

## How Does New Jersey Compare?

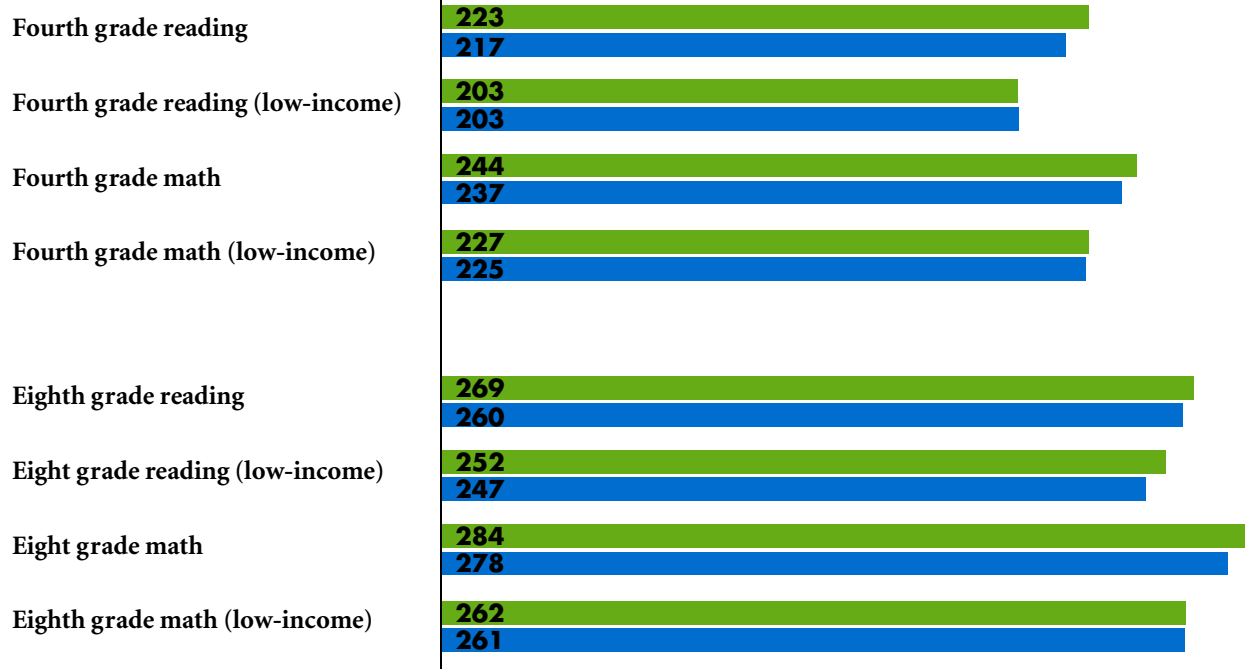
On average, New Jersey's 4th and 8th graders score consistently higher on national standardized tests. Even the state's low-income children tend to post scores that are higher than their counterparts in other states. New Jersey also has a much higher number of schools and a lower pupil-teacher ratio than national averages. New Jersey graduation rates are also substantially higher.



## Public Education

Profile 2003-2004 School Year	New Jersey	National Average
Total number of schools	2,467	1,885
Total teachers	109,077	59,775
Pupil/teacher ratio	12.7	15.9

## National Test Scores 2005



## Graduation Rates



## New Jersey Kids Count 2006 The State of Children in Our State

# Data Sources and Definitions

### Section 1: New Jersey Children and Families

**Total population 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by US Bureau of the Census, American Factfinder. From Census 2000 Supplementary Survey chart P004, American Community Survey 2003 chart P001, American Community Survey 2004 chart B01001.

**Child population 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data.

**Child population ages 0-4 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Profiles by State.

**Median family income (w/child) 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Comparisons by Topic.

**Children in single-parent household 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Profiles by State.

**Children in households with caregiving grandparent 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Profiles by State.

**Child population by race 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Profiles by State.

**Children in immigrant families 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Profiles by State.

### Section 2: The State of Family Economics

**Children below 50% FPL, 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Profiles by State.

**Children below 100% FPL, 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Profiles by State.

**Children below 150% Poverty 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Profiles by State.

**Children below 200% Poverty 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Profiles by State.

**Children under 5 in poverty 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Profiles by State.

**Percent of children in home with limited English proficiency NJ vs. US 2003.** Prepared by the Annie E. Casey Foundation using US Census Bureau, American Community Survey data.

**Children in immigrant families 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Comparisons by Topic.

**Children born outside the US 2003.** Child Trends tabulations of data from the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health.

**Child's mother born outside the US 2003.** Child Trends tabulations of data from the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health.

**Child's father born outside the US 2003.** Child Trends tabulations of data from the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health.

**At least one parent born outside the US 2003.** Child Trends tabulations of data from the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health.

**Both parents born outside the US 2003.** Child Trends tabulations of data from the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health.

**Single parents below poverty 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Profiles by State.

**Children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Profiles by State.

**Unemployment 2001, 2004 and 2005.** As reported by the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Rates are annual averages, seasonally adjusted.

**Low-income households paying too much for rent 2000, 2003 and 2004.** Represents low-income households spending more than 30 percent of income on rent. As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Profiles by State.

**Children living in crowded housing 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Profiles by State.

**Children in families below 200% FPL, NJ vs. US 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Comparisons by Topic.

**Children below 100% FPL NJ vs. US 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Comparisons by Topic.

**Children under 5 in poverty NJ vs. US 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Comparisons by Topic.

**Single-parent families below poverty NJ vs. US 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Comparisons by Topic.

**Female-headed families receiving child support NJ vs. US 2003.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Comparisons by Topic.

**Percent children in low-income families spending more than 30% of income on housing NJ vs. US 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Comparisons by Topic.

**Children living in crowded housing NJ vs. US 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Comparisons by Topic.

**Female-headed families receiving child support 1999, 2002 and 2003.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Profiles by State.

**Percent of cases with support orders 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement, Child Support Enforcement FY 2004 Preliminary Report, Table D.

**Child support collection rates 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement, Child Support Enforcement FY 2004 Preliminary Report, Table H.

**Total open cases 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development, Current Program Statistics.

**Open TANF and foster care child support cases 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development, Current Program Statistics.

**Percent TANF cases with arrears 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development, Current Program Statistics.

*\*Note: Annie E. Casey State-level data comparisons are available at [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org)*

**State Earned Income Tax credits 2001, 2003 and 2004.** Number of New Jersey tax payers filing for state EITC and average refund for tax years 2001, 2003 and 2004, as reported by the NJ Department of the Treasury.

**Federal Earned Income Tax credits, 2001, 2003, 2004.** Number of New Jersey taxpayers filing for federal EITC and average refund for tax years 2001, 2003 and 2004, as reported by the Internal Revenue Service.

**Children receiving TANF 2001, 2004 and 2005.** Number of children living in families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families, as reported by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development. Data are from June of each year.

**Children receiving food stamps 2001, 2004 and 2005.** As reported by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development. Data are from June of each year.

**Children receiving school lunch 2001, 2004 and 2005.** Children receiving free- or reduced-price lunch. As reported by the NJ Department of Education, October enrollment counts. Data reflect only public school enrollments.

**Women, Infants and Children receiving nutritional support 2001, 2004 and 2005.** Number of women, infants and children receiving WIC benefits, which include healthcare referrals, immunizations screenings, nutrition counseling and a monthly food stipend. Reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Division of Family Health Services Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), for the quarter ending June 30th of each year.

**Section 8 housing vouchers 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**Section 8 expenditures 1999, 2002 and 2003.** As reported by the National Priorities Project Database.

**Child care subsidies 1999-2004.** As reported by the NJ Department of Human Services. Includes both vouchers and contracted child care slots.

**Federal poverty levels 2004.** As reported by the US Department of Health and Human Services.

**Food stamp participation rates NJ and US 1999, 2002 and 2003.** As reported by the US Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Reaching Those in Need: State Food Stamp Participation Rates.

**Number of children receiving school breakfast, participation ratio and rank 2003-04 and 2004-05.** Participation ratio represents the percent of children receiving free- or reduced-price lunch who also receive school breakfast. As reported by the Food Research and Action Center, 2005 School Breakfast Scorecard, Table 1.

**Percent of eligible WIC population served 1998, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, Healthy New Jersey 2010: Update 2005.

**Percent of households that received cash assistance in past year NJ vs. US 2003.** Child Trends tabulations of data from the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health.

**Percent of households currently receiving WIC benefits NJ vs. US 2003.** Child Trends tabulations of data from the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health.

**Percent of children (age >3 years) who received free- or reduced-price lunch in past year NJ vs. US 2003.** Child Trends tabulations of data from the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health.

**Percent of children who received food stamps in past year NJ vs. US 2003.** Child Trends tabulations of data from the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health.

### Section 3: The State of Child Health

**Total births 1999, 2002 and 2003.** As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data.

**Low birth-weight babies 1999, 2002 and 2003.** The number of babies born weighing less than 2,500 grams as reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data.

**Pregnant women receiving late or no prenatal care 1999, 2002 and 2003.** Live births for which the mother received late prenatal care (onset in second or third trimester) and no prenatal care, as reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data.

**Births to unmarried women 1999, 2002 and 2003.** As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data.

**Births to teens 1999, 2002 and 2003.** The number of births to teenagers ages 15-19 as reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data.

**Percent of mothers receiving first trimester prenatal care by race 1999 and 2003.** As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data.

**Two-year-olds who were immunized 2000, 2003 and 2004.** Numbers represent the percent of 2-year-old children receiving the complete series of four or more doses of the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine; three or more doses of poliovirus vaccine; and one or more doses of measles-mumps-rubella vaccine. As reported by the Centers for Disease Control, National Immunization Survey.

**Children tested for lead 2000, 2002 and 2003.** As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Family Health Services, Maternal, Child and Community Health Services, Annual Reports.

**Children with high levels of lead 2000, 2002 and 2003.** As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Family Health Services, Maternal, Child and Community Health Services, Annual Reports. Any child with a blood lead level equal or greater than 10 ug/dL (micrograms of lead per decileter of whole blood) is suffering from childhood lead poisoning and in need of corrective follow-up treatment.

**Early detection participation rate 2000, 2002 and 2003.** As reported by the National Health Law Program, Children's Health Under Medicaid: A National Review of Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment—1999-2003.

**Early detection screening rate 2000, 2002 and 2003.** As reported by the National Health Law Program, Children's Health Under Medicaid: A National Review of Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment—1999-2003.

**Early detection dental services 2000, 2002 and 2003.** As reported by the National Health Law Program, Children's Health Under Medicaid: A National Review of Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment—1999-2003.

**Children enrolled in Medicaid 2002, 2004 and 2005.** As reported by the NJ Department of Human Services. Data are from March of each year.

**Children enrolled in FamilyCare 2002, 2004 and 2005.** As reported by the NJ Department of Human Services. Data are from March of each year.

**Children without health insurance 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Table HI-5.

**Low-income children without health insurance 1999-2001, 2001-2003 and 2002-2004.** Counts children below 200 percent of the federal poverty line, as reported by the US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 3-year averages.

**Percent of uninsured children by race 1999-01, 2000-02 and 2001-03.** As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, Healthy New Jersey 2010: Update 2005.

**Infant mortality 1999, 2002 and 2003.** Counts infants who die within the first year of life. As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data.

**Child deaths 1999, 2002 and 2003.** Counts children ages 1-14. As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics.

**Teen deaths 1999, 2002 and 2003.** Counts teenagers 15-19. As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics.

**Asthma admissions to hospital 1999, 2002 and 2003.** As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Hospital Discharge Data.

**Asthma admissions to hospital via the emergency room 1999, 2002 and 2003.** As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Hospital Discharge Data.

**Children living with HIV/AIDS 2002, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Division of HIV/AIDS Services.

**Healthy New Jersey 2010 Goals.** As reported by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, Center for Health Statistics, Healthy New Jersey 2010: Update 2005.

**Percent of children in overall good health 2003.** As reported by the Centers for Disease Control, National Center for Health Statistics, 2003 National Survey of Children's Health.

**Percent of children without health insurance 2004.** As reported by the US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, August 2005.

**Percent of 2-year-olds immunized 2004.** Percent of two-year-old children receiving the complete series of four or more doses of the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine; three or more doses of poliovirus vaccine; and one or more doses of any measles-mumps-rubella vaccine. As reported by the Centers for Disease Control, US National Immunization Survey, 2004.

## Section 4: The State of Early Care and Education

**Licensed child care centers 2002, 2004 and 2005.** The number of state-licensed child care centers as reported by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Youth and Family Services, Bureau of Licensing.

**Child care center capacity 2002, 2004 and 2005.** The capacity of state-licensed child care centers as reported by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Youth and Family Services, Bureau of Licensing.

**Registered family child care providers 2002, 2004 and 2005.** The number of registered providers offering child care in their homes as reported by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Youth and Family Services, Bureau of Licensing.

**Head Start enrollment 2000, 2003 and 2004.** US Administration for Children and Families, Head Start Program Fact Sheets for each year.

**Head Start allocation 2000, 2003 and 2004.** US Administration for Children and Families, Head Start Program Fact Sheets for each year.

**Pre-k enrollments 1999-00, 2003-04 and 2004-05.** Number of students enrolled in half- and full-day New Jersey Department of Education-approved programs, operated both in-district and in community centers, as reported by the NJ Department of Education, October enrollment counts of each year. Excludes children enrolled in Head Start or other programs that do not receive any state aid.

**Kindergarten enrollments, 1999-00, 2003-04 and 2004-05.** The number of students enrolled in half- and full-day public kindergarten, as reported by the NJ Department of Education, October enrollment counts of each year.

**Percent of children enrolled in nursery school, preschool or kindergarten (3-5) 2000, 2003, 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Profiles by State. Counts children enrolled in nursery school or kindergarten during the previous two months.

**Accredited early childhood education programs 1993, 2003 and 2004.** Includes preschools, child care centers, Head Start programs and kindergarten for children from 0-5. The accreditation criteria address teacher qualifications and development, child-to-teacher ratios, curriculum and other measures of quality.

**Parent in excellent/very good physical health 2003.** Child Trends tabulations of data from the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health.

**Parent in excellent/very good mental health 2003.** Child Trends tabulations of data from the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health.

**Parent has someone to turn to for day-to-day emotional help with parent-hood/raising children 2003.** Child Trends tabulations of data from the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health.

**During past 12 months/since child's birth some one in the family quit a job, did not take a job, or greatly changed job because of problems with child care 2003.** Child Trends tabulations of data from the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health.

**Child has moved two or more times 2003.** Child Trends tabulations of data from the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health.

**No one in household was employed at least 50 out of the past 52 weeks 2003.** Child Trends tabulations of data from the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health.

**During past 12 months child (6-17 years) participated in some type of team, club or activity 2003.** Child Trends tabulations of data from the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health.

**Child attends some type of non-parental child care 2003.** Child Trends tabulations of data from the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health.

**Child (6-11 years) spends time caring for him/herself 2003.** Child Trends tabulations of data from the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health.

**Child attends religious activity at least once per week 2003.** Child Trends tabulations of data from the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health.

**Child spends 3-4.9 hours, watching TV, playing video games or on computer 2003.** Child Trends tabulations of data from the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health.

**Child spends 5 or more hours, watching TV, playing video games or on computer 2003.** Child Trends tabulations of data from the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health.

**Children (3-4 years) enrolled in nursery school or preschool, 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data.

## Section 5: The State of Child Protection

**Number of children reported for abuse/neglect 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Youth and Family Services, New Jersey Child Abuse and Neglect Statistical Reports for 2000 and 2003. 2004 number was provided by the NJ Department of Human Services and is preliminary. Represents calls made to the state reporting suspected child abuse/neglect. Includes children under age 18.

**Number/rate of children reported for family problems 2000, 2003.** As reported by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Youth and Family Services, New Jersey Child Abuse and Neglect Statistical Reports for 2000 and 2003. Family Problem Referrals are cases in which a state investigator/caseworker determines that child abuse/neglect has not occurred but that a family may need state services or intervention to prevent abuse from occurring.

**Number/percent of children found to be abused/neglected 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Youth and Family Services, New Jersey Child Abuse and Neglect Statistical Reports for 2000 and 2003. 2004 number was provided by the NJ Department of Human Services and is preliminary. Represents the number of referrals in which the division uncovered enough evidence to "substantiate" a claim of abuse or neglect. Includes children under age 18.

**Children under state supervision 2001, 2004 and 2005.** As reported by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Youth and Family Services, Caseload Activity Report, April of each year. Includes only children under DYFS supervision living with their biological families.

**Children in out-of-home placements 2001, 2004 and 2005.** Includes children under age 18 in all placements, including foster care, relative care, group homes, residential treatment and institutions. As reported by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Youth and Family Services.

**Children entering out-of-home care 2001, 2004.** As reported by the New Jersey Child Welfare Panel, Period Monitoring Report, January 1, 2005 to June 30, 2005, issued October 11, 2005, using NJ Office of Children's Services data.

**Children exiting out-of-home care 2001, 2004.** As reported by the New Jersey Child Welfare Panel, Period Monitoring Report, January 1, 2005 to June 30, 2005, issued October 11, 2005, using NJ Office of Children's Services data.

**Number of in-state foster home (unrelated) 2001, 2004 and 2005.** As reported by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Youth and Family Services, Foster Care Utilization Reports.

**Number of in-state foster homes (related) 2001, 2004 and 2005.** As reported by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Youth and Family Services, Foster Care Utilization Reports.

**State finalized adoptions 2001, 2004 and 2005.** As reported by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Youth and Family Services.

**State adoption placements 2001, 2004 and 2005.** As reported by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Youth and Family Services.

**Children legally free but not adopted 2003, 2004 and 2005.** As reported by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Youth and Family Services. Counts children whose parental rights have been terminated but whose adoptions have not been finalized.

**Rate of children entering out-of-home care 2003, 2004.** As reported by the New Jersey Child Welfare Panel, Period Monitoring Report, January 1, 2005 to June 30, 2005, issued October 11, 2005, using NJ Office of Children's Services data.

**Children abused in out-of-home care 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the New Jersey Child Welfare Panel, Period Monitoring Report, January 1, 2005 to June 30, 2005, issued October 11, 2005, using NJ Office of Children's Services data.

**Child victims per 1,000 of child population 2002.** Child Welfare League of America, National Data Analysis System, State Data Trends for New Jersey, 2002.

**Child in out-of-home placements per 1,000 2002.** Child Welfare League of America, National Data Analysis System, State Data Trends for New Jersey, 2002.

**Mean length of stay in months 2003.** Child Welfare League of America, (2005). Special tabulation of the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System, Washington, DC. Show the average number of months children spent in care from the time of entry into care to Sept. 30, 2003.

**Substantiated reports 2003.** US Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Table 2-4 Investigations by Disposition 2003, Child Maltreatment 2003.

**Percent children maltreated in foster care 2003.** US Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Table 3-15 Children in Foster Care Maltreated by Foster Care Provider, 2000-2003, Child Maltreatment 2003.

## Section 6: The State of Youth and Teens

**Teens not working and not attending school 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Profiles by State.

**People 18-24 not attending school, not working and no degree beyond high school 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Profiles by State.

**Juvenile arrests 2000, 2003 and 2004.** NJ Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of State Police, Uniform Crime Reports for each year.

**Juvenile commitments 2000, 2003 and 2004.** Number of youth incarcerated in state-run juvenile facilities. As reported by the NJ Juvenile Justice Commission.

**Admissions to juvenile county detention 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the NJ Juvenile Justice Commission, Juvenile Justice Statistics for each year.

**Average daily population as % of approved capacity 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the NJ Juvenile Justice Commission, Juvenile Justice Statistics for each year.

**Average length of stay in juvenile county detention 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the NJ Juvenile Justice Commission, Juvenile Justice Statistics for each year.

**Percent of people 18-24 in poverty NJ vs. US 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Comparisons by Topic.

**Teens not attending school/working NJ vs. US 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Comparisons by Topic.

**Youth in detention/correction facilities, rate per 100,000 NJ vs. US 2001.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Comparisons by Topic.

## Section 7: The State of Public Education

**Total enrollment 2000-01, 2003-04 and 2004-05.** As reported by the NJ Department of Education, October enrollment counts.

**Special education enrollments 2000-01, 2003-04 and 2004-05.** As reported by the NJ Department of Education, October enrollment counts.

**Children passing 3rd grade achievement tests 2004.** As reported by the NJ Department of Education, New Jersey School Report Card.

**Children passing 4th grade achievement tests 2000-2001, 2002-2003, 2003-2004.** As reported by the NJ Department of Education, New Jersey School Report Card for each year. Scores for low-income children are based on eligibility for free- and reduced-priced school lunch.

**Children passing 8th grade achievement tests 2000-2001, 2002-2003, 2003-2004.** As reported by the NJ Department of Education, New Jersey School Report Card for each year. Scores for low-income children are based on eligibility for free- and reduced-priced school lunch.

**Children passing 11th grade achievement tests 2000-2001, 2002-2003, 2003-2004.** As reported by the NJ Department of Education, New Jersey School Report Card for each year. Scores for low-income children are based on eligibility for free- and reduced-priced school lunch.

**School violence/substance abuse incidents 1999-00, 2001-02 and 2003-04.** As reported by the NJ Department of Education, Commissioner of Education's Report on Violence, Vandalism and Substance Abuse in NJ Public Schools each year. In 2002, the Department of Education revised the incident definitions to provide greater detail and bring the definition of all incidents in line with state criminal statute and code. As a result, caution should be used when comparing with previous years.

**Percent of teens who are high school dropouts 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Profiles by State.

**Children in households where head is a high school dropout 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Profiles by State.

**Children in households where head has a Bachelor's degree or higher 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Profiles by State.

**Young adults enrolled or completed college 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Profiles by State.

**Children who speak a language other than English at home 2000, 2003 and 2004.** As reported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count State-Level Data, Profiles by State.

**Total number of schools NJ vs. US 2003-04.** As reported by the US Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, State Education Data Profiles.

**Total teachers NJ vs. US 2003-04.** As reported by the US Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, State Education Data Profiles.

**Pupil/teacher ratio NJ vs. US 2003-04.** As reported by the US Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, State Education Data Profiles.

**Fourth grade test scores NJ vs. US 2005.** As reported by the US Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, the Nation's Report Card 2005.

**Eighth grade test scores NJ vs. US 2005.** As reported by the US Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, the Nation's Report Card 2005.

**Graduation rates NJ vs. US 2001-02 and 2002-03.** As reported by the US Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data, Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate for Public High Schools.

