

All Kids Matter to New Jersey Tracking and Partners

What was the problem/situation?

New Jersey's non-governmental organizations like Advocates for Children of New Jersey, <https://acnj.org/>, (ACNJ) need comprehensive health data on NJ's children at the smallest geography scale possible. According to Peter Chen, ACNJ staff attorney, "ACNJ is an advocacy organization, and we consistently need accurate up-to-date detailed information so we can track the health of New Jersey's kids. We especially need to understand which groups of kids are experiencing poor outcomes so that we can work with partners throughout NJ to work to fix the situation."



How was Tracking involved?

In June 2019, ACNJ released a new publication, **Trenton Kids Count, 2019: A City Profile of Child Well-Being**, which details the health and well-being of Trenton's kids. Chapter 3, "Child Health", cites NJ Tracking's data portal, [NJSHAD](#), as the source for 10 of 16 included health indicators. As stated by Trenton Mayor, Reed Gusciora, "It is my hope that with the release of this report, readers will feel empowered to use the data to make a difference and move the needle forward for Trenton's children. I ask our residents to roll up their sleeves and join me as we work together to make sure Trenton's kids count!"

The new **Trenton Kids Count 2019: A City Profile of Child Well-Being** can be found at <https://acnj.org/kids-count/trenton-kids-count/>. It identifies 16 major health

indicators for Trenton's children and places these data in context with other data, including demographics, family economic security, child protection, child care, education, and issues impacting teens. ACNJ issued a press release and held a public release event in Trenton on June 13, 2019.

What action was taken to resolve the problem?

As succinctly stated in a July 13th headline in the **Trentonian**, "Newly released report paints a sobering picture for Trenton youth, officials seek solutions". Following the report's release, ACNJ President Cecilia Zalkind stated that "data in the report, culled from federal and state agencies, should serve as a blueprint guiding stakeholders to develop solutions to the problems faced by Trenton's nearly 22,400 kids." Other officials noted that easily available data made the new **Trenton Kids Count** report possible. Echoing the sentiment of the ACNJ President, Atiya Weiss, Executive Director of the Burke Foundation, a co-funder of **Trenton Kids Count**, stated, "The **Trenton Kids Count** report presents data that will be used by policymakers, health experts, non-profits and the public. The report's findings, spanning issue areas from poverty, unemployment, and housing rates to health care programs and community-led initiatives, provide a powerful opportunity to unite together in order to strengthen systems of care and policies for Trenton's children and families."



NJSHAD serves as the main data portal for NJDOH, providing public access to data and information from the entire New Jersey Department of Health, and hosts datasets for the New Jersey Environmental Public Health Tracking (NJEPHT) Program. NJSHAD provides static public health indicators which combine data and information, and dynamic custom public health query tools. The functionality, content, and utility of NJSHAD and the NJEPHT portal continue to be updated and enhanced.